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GIVE US A GROUND

FORMER WA State soccer captain John O'Connell has mounted a campaign to see a purpose built soccer stadium built in Perth.

Currently Perth Glory play out of Perth Oval, a cricket ground which O'Connell, now involved in soccer as radio journalist, sees as totally unfit.

And with the likelihood that Glory will be forced to move out of this base sooner rather than later he is calling on the State government to accept soccer's status in the west and build a purpose built stadium.

"It isn't acceptable that soccer plays on a cricket pitch," O'Connell said from Perth.

"The facilities at Perth Oval just aren't good enough for Ericsson Cup soccer.

"The patrons at the WACA wouldn't accept sitting out in 35° heat and using portable toilet cabins so why should soccer fans?"

O'Connell points to the huge crowds which Perth

By **BRUCE CAMPBELL**

Glory have pulled since their inception three years ago and cites the longevity of the game in West Australia, which is over a century old, and the 15,000 plus registered players as ample reasons for a soccer stadium in Perth.

In the event that Glory make this season's Top Six a move to Subiaco Oval has been mooted to house the huge expected crowd.

Subiaco has a 40,000 capacity but O'Connell has pointed to its unsuitability.

"At the end of the day it is still a cricket oval," he says.

"And that isn't suitable to play soccer on, the fans are just too far away from the action.

"But I hope that Perth, if they make the finals, pack the place and that will tell the State government just exactly how much potential this game has.

"We have had interna-

tional touring sides here since the beginning of the century but have missed out on the 2000 Olympics because we don't have a suitable venue.

"Next year is an election year in WA and I think that the government are starting to be embarrassed by soccer.

"Now they are asking that tenders to build a convention centre also include plans for a rectangular football pitch so that soccer can be shunted away with Rugby League and Rugby Union.

"But they are minor sports here and that is the way we are being treated also."

Recently the WA State Government spent a sum in excess of \$30 million dollars as part of an upgrade to Subiaco but created a storm of controversy by only adding an additional 3,000 seats.

Now they are faced with another storm and the inability of the cur-



John Markovski: helping to draw big crowds at Perth Oval

rent governing party to find a suitable home for the smash hit Glory might just be used as an

election platform against them.

"It's time that soccer got smart and started hav-

ing a say in politics in this state," said a defiant John O'Connell.

The message from

Perth is clear, it just reams to be seen what, if any, the reaction will be.



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Holland, Croatia and Brazil ...

By Paul Millar

SOCCER superpower Brazil is expected to tour Australia in November with international matches against the Socceroos to be played at the MCG and Sydney's main Olympic stadium.

High-level soccer officials have confirmed that talks with the Brazilians are well advanced and it's now just a case of settling on a specific date.

Australia drew 0-0 with a full strength Brazil in the group stages of the last Confederations Cup but was thrashed 6-0 by the South American giant in the final.

The International Management Group and other agencies have been involved in discussions with several international sides about tours to Australia.

Also earmarked for visits are Croatia and Holland.

Meanwhile, the Left

Field Solutions (LFS) group revealed to *Inside Soccer* that it could stage an international soccer game at the Sydney Olympic stadium annually for five years on the anniversary of the stadium's official opening.

The Socceroos will play a World XI to officially open the stadium on June 12 and LFS director George Christopoulos said he expected a sell-out 110,000-crowd for the game.

"We've got a five year deal to do a birthday event every June and soccer is the obvious choice as it draws the biggest crowds," he said. He said FIFA was right behind the stadium opening and some of world's superstars would be coming.

LFS will officially launch the World XI game next week and tickets will then go on sale.

Carlton feel the Blues

By Bruce Campbell

LAST year's beaten Grand Finalists Carlton have been in the news for mostly the wrong reasons in the last week or so.

Firstly, there was the continued speculation about who and when they would be sold to.

Following hot on the heels of that was the bitter transfer tug with Gippsland Falcon Archie Thompson.

Latest reports indicate that Thompson may well be a Carlton player by the end of this week with the Melbourne club set to agree to Gippsland's demands.

But the mood turned sour after the Gippsland v Carlton league match on Saturday night.

Always scripted for a feisty encounter, Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic stormed off after the match refusing to make comment to the waiting press contingent.

It is said that Krncevic was upset at the standard of refereeing and that spurred his refusal to speak to the media.

However, a small group of Gippsland fans are



Eddie Krncevic: storming mad

alleged to have been involved in a fracas at the windows of the Carlton dressing room.

The Carlton players

were ushered out of the Stadium under police escort after Marco Bresciano was injured in the dressing room disturbance.

bance.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that a bottle may have been thrown either into the dressing room or from within the dressing room.

Soccer Australia is expected to make a full investigation after reports have been received from the clubs.

Bresciano was not said to have been injured seriously.

And in further news concerning Carlton their reported sell-out to the Jess consortium took a new twist, when, as expected, Soccer Australia told the group that they would have to pay a bond and franchise fee before buying into the club.

It is believed that Carlton have been told to place a similar amount as the new Ericsson Cup club, Auckland Kings, and hopefuls Parramatta.

This new financial benchmark reflects the improved status of the NSL.

It is also likely that Sydney United will be forced to pay a similar amount if it is to continue into next season's competition.

Officials close to Carlton would not confirm the report of the \$500,000 Soccer Australia licence fee which is said to be the stumbling block to the take-over of the financially crippled club.

HODGSON FOR SOCCEROOS?

Former Blackburn manager Roy Hodgson could be the next coach of the Socceroos, according to London's Express newspaper.

The paper has reported that Hodgson leaves for Sydney at the end of this week to run a two-week coaching course.

It claims that while he is in Australia, Hodgson will discuss the possibility of taking over at the helm of the Socceroos.

Hodgson has also confirmed he is interested in the position of England coach following Glenn Hoddle's sacking last week, but he is only considered an outside chance for the post.

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Thomson, Smith and Mitchell all loom as Socceroo likelies

By Bruce Campbell

SOCCER Australia has moved closer to signing a new coach to guide the Socceroos on the path to the next World Cup.

Despite announcements that a national team boss will not be installed until the end of this year it seems that SA's top men have been putting in plenty of late nights as a list of prospective candidates is whittled down.

Just now NSL Chairman Tony Labbozzetta is in Europe with a multi-purpose mission.

As well as being an ambassador for Marconi's participation in the Viareggio youth tournament he is also said to be checking a few high profile candidates out for the Socceroo vacancy.

Recently Labbozzetta and Australian youth team coach Les Scheinflug, who has accompanied Labbozzetta to Viareggio, held talks with Mark Schwarzer in Middlesbrough about the possibility of the former Marconi keeper appearing for the Socceroos in June against the FIFA World XI.

But it has been suggested that the main reason for the high profile Soccer Australia chief's

European visit is to speak to a number of well-connected soccer personalities about the coaching vacancy.

There are many people in Australia who would like to see the possible return of former Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson, an idea certainly not repugnant to either Labbozzetta or ASF chairman, Basil Scarsella.

Thomson still has a marvellous support base within the majority of the Australian soccer press and enjoys a reputation second to none with Australia.

The fact that Scarsella is so adamant that no appointment will be made until the end of 1999 adds further credence to the suggestion that a recall for Thomson is on the cards.

Also said to be in the framework for a first-ever Technical Director's appointment is former AIS director of soccer, Ron Smith.

The likeable Londoner is now coaching in Malaysia but recently told *Inside Soccer* of his interest in the position should it be offered to him.

"Yes, it is true," he said.

"If I was offered a job within the national team



Ron Smith: Australia's new international Technical Director?

coaching set-up I would gladly accept it and I believe that I could be of tremendous importance in the role of Technical Director."

Like Thomson, Smith is currently contracted until the end of the year.

Recent speculation linking another former Socceroo coach, Terry Venables, with a return to Australia are apparently wide of the mark although several high-

profile English coaches are rumoured to be on the ASF list.

Of the local coaches who are pressing for inclusion in the system David Mitchell appears the name most likely.

Mitchell is unlikely to be with Sydney United next season even if they manage to escape their current financial straits.

An assistant role with Les Scheinflug for either the World Under-20

championships in Nigeria in April or the World Under-17 championships in New Zealand in November is on the cards.

Mitchell has been a revelation at United and his name is a popular choice with fans and administrators.

Soccer Australia have also indicated that they are prepared to add a locally based coach to the ASF structure.

Internet visa query stirs up Kiwi anomaly

By BRUCE CAMPBELL

INTERNET buffs are often much-maligned, referred to in passing as 'anoraks' or other derogatory epithets.

But it would surprise many to know that the Oz Soccer List (an internet message board) includes many of the biggest names in Australian soccer as its subscribers.

Occasionally their 'posts' stir up a hornet's nest as they did recently when the subject of New Zealand nationals was raised in response to a post that Perth Glory's Gavin Wilkinson was considering Australian citizenship.

"Why are New Zealanders listed as Visa players but are then not paid the minimum visa wage," asked *Inside Soccer* columnist, New Zealand international and star Carlton defender Sean Douglas.

Douglas's query started a flurry of correspondence all around the country, finally ending up at Soccer Australia's



Paddington HQ where the courteous Anne Nicholls gave an expert summation of the question.

"The basic requirement of the Department of Immigration is that overseas workers, and not just soccer players, do not deprive an Australian of a job that they could do as well or better," she said.

"New Zealanders can come into Australia under the terms of a reciprocal arrangement between the two countries and can claim all sort of

benefits without having to meet immigration requirements first.

"It is easier for them to arrive in Australia than it is for nationals of other countries.

"But they must still satisfy the same visa players requirements and are also included in the list of a maximum of three players that a club can have.

"That is a decision of the Board of Commissioners who feel that they have to safeguard the futures of Australian soccer players."

It seems that the confusion arises out of the wording of Ericsson Cup By Law 11 which does not detail the fact that clubs, under decisions made by the board of SA, do not have to pay the minimum wage, currently set at \$600 per week by the department of Immigration, to visa players.

It also seems that New Zealanders do not neces-

sarily have to meet the criterion of By Law 11 and can play for Ericsson Cup clubs as an ordinary Australian resident - as one such New Zealander does at present.

"It is up to the player," said Mrs Nicholls.

"If they want to apply for a sporting visa then they can if they accept a certain wage level then that is also up to them.

"But clubs do not have to offer them the minimum wage because that is not a requirement."

The admission of Auckland Kings to next season's Ericsson Cup also creates another anomaly, with the NZ side able to field five visa players.

Auckland's remaining player quota must consist of New Zealand residents and, presumably, Australians who are playing under New Zealand residency laws.

It would seem that some clarification needs to be carried out and at least an amendment to the existing By Law 11 which is clearly out of date.

Hoddle sacking continues World Cup trend

THE sacking of England manager Glenn Hoddle means 23 of the 32 coaches at the World Cup soccer finals in France have now left their posts.

The following is a list of the departures since the start of the 1998 World Cup tournament, which ran from June 10 to July 12.

Argentina: Daniel Passarella, resigned and replaced by Marcelo Bielsa.

Brazil: Mario Zagallo, sacked and replaced by Vanderley Luxemburgo.

Bulgaria: Hristo Bonev, resigned and replaced by Dimitar Dimitrov.

Cameroon: Claude Le Roy, end of contract, replaced by Pierre Le Chantre.

Colombia: Hernan Dario Gomez, end of contract, replaced by Javier Alvarez.

England: Glenn Hoddle, sacked on Feb 2.

France: Aime Jacquet, end of contract, replaced by Roger Lemerre.

Germany: Berti Vogts, resigned and replaced by Erich Ribbeck.

Iran: Jalal Talebi, resigned and replaced by Mansour Pourheidari.

Italy: Cesare Maldini, resigned and replaced by Dino Zoff.

Japan: Takeshi Okada, resigned and replaced by Philippe Troussier.

Netherlands: Guus Hiddink, end of

contract, replaced by Frank Rijkaard.

Nigeria: Bora Milutinovic, end of contract, replaced by Thijs Libregts.

Norway: Egil Olsen, resigned and replaced by Nils Johan Semb.

Paraguay -- Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani, end of contract.

Romania: Anghel Iordanescu, end of contract, replaced by Victor Piturca.

Saudi Arabia: Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked and replaced by Otto Pfister.

South Africa: Philippe Troussier, end of contract, replaced by Trott Moloto.

South Korea: Cha Bum-kun, sacked and replaced by Kim Mung-seok.

Spain: Javier Clemente, resigned, replaced by Jose Antonio Camacho.

Tunisia: Henri Kasperczak, sacked and replaced by Francesco Scoglio.

United States: Steve Sampson, resigned, replaced by Bruce Arena.

Yugoslavia: Slobodan Santrac, retired and replaced by Milan Zivadinovic.

The nine coaches remaining in their posts are: Rene Simoes (Jamaica), Manuel Lapuente (Mexico), Henri Michel (Morocco), Craig Brown (Scotland), Georges Leekens (Belgium), Herbert Prohaska (Austria), Bo Johansson (Denmark), Miroslav Blazevic (Croatia) and Nelson Acosta (Chile).

Disgraced star starts two year detention after fraud conviction

FORMER Wollongong goalkeeper Natch Vardareff was sent down last week after being found guilty of obtaining money by deception.

In two separate incidents Vardareff acquired a total of \$130,000 from the National Australia Bank in Corrimal as extensions to his home.

Vardareff played for the Wollongong City Wolves in the early eighties and has also been involved in coaching.

The fraud was said by Vardareff to be used to pay for gambling which he said was a disease.

"I felt sick when it happened but I knew all along I wouldn't get away with it," the disgraced soccer star was quoted as saying in the *Illawarra Mercury*.

"The big disappointment was that Sue (his wife) did not support me as I would have done her.

"It's as the judge said ... gambling is a life-long addiction but I haven't gambled since the day I was caught.

"The problem is that there is so much available for the problem gambler.

"You can even put a credit card into an Internet gambling site now and lose thousands."

Vardareff was sentenced to two year's weekend detention by Judge Joe Phelan.

Additionally he was sentenced to a two and a half year good behaviour bond.

The woman who signed the fraudulent home loan papers along with Vardareff was not his wife.

Vardareff's estranged wife hit back at the former Wolves player in a later *Illawarra Mercury* article claiming a string of lies and deceptions as well as infidelity.

And as Vardareff was due to start the first weekend of his sentence he was seen in the Fraternity club last Friday where he was in seemingly high spirits.

Vardareff spent some hours at the club in the company of friends.

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AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING SOCCER PUBLICATION

Inside Soccer PAGE 3

Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

EVERY time a player or coach gets the sack I feel an incredible amount of sympathy. After that I feel frustration which, inevitably, leads to anger.

As the facts become clearer then my frustration, and of course my resulting anger, continues to grow.

How can you ever blame a coach or a player for results in an Ericsson Cup match?

A soccer club board appoints a coach who in turn signs players within a budget and then trains them and selects a team.

Should he also be responsible for the vagaries of the game such as who the other team has in its line-up, injuries, suspensions and just plain bad luck?

Has Manfred Schaefer all of a sudden become such a bad coach?

In turn, the players never beg, or at least rarely, to be picked.

They just do their very best to acquire skills and get as fit as required.

Sure, they have all of the hopes and dreams that we all share, but in the main they are happy playing for Cooe United as Manchester United if that is their skill level.

If someone comes along and pays them a squillion for kicking a ball around then so be it.

So when things go wrong at a club who shoulders the blame, is it the players or the coach?

Or is it the board?

When did you ever hear of a board resigning or an owner saying publicly that he was wrong?

Enter one Con Makris, majority

share holder in Adelaide Sharks, or owner as he really is.

It isn't any big secret in Adelaide that Adrian Santrac has been having a look at the Sharks training sessions well in advance of last week's shock sacking of Schaefer.

Neither is it any secret that Makris has spoken to other coaches.

It would seem that everybody he has spoken to has come away with the feeling that he is the 'chosen one', the one to lead the Sharks back to their halcyon days of the late '70s.

The truth is that only a brigade of storm troopers could bring the Sharks back to their halcyonic days.

There are so many problems at that club that they are in danger of becoming soccer's endangered species.

That I personally don't think Con Makris knows anything about Ericsson Cup soccer is only an opinion, but it is mine.

That a great deal of others share my opinion is some comfort but it is still only opinion, not fact.

That Soccer Australia just lets anybody who has a couple of bucks get into the game at ownership level is not a source of comfort, but it is fact.

It is also a source of frustration and anger.

What qualifications does Makris have for being the arbitrator of Schaefer's Ericsson Cup career?

None, I suspect - but then I am always open to Mr Makris telling me otherwise and providing the space for that reply.

I get angry at the behaviour of other coaches also.

How can you stand by and let one of your colleagues, and a living legend within the game, get so royally shafted?

If Schaefer was a dud then he should never have been appointed in the first place.

Whoever made that appointment should have shouldered the blame.

But he isn't, he is one of the very best - that is until Mr 'Money Bags' Makris decides to have a quick mid-season change.

All of a sudden the army of roaches and gutter snipes which purport to be coaches in this country crawl out of the woodwork looking to benefit from Schaefer's injustice.

Listen, guys, why don't you do yourself a favour and tell him to go and get stuffed.

I just wished that the people who really make the mistakes, Soccer Australia, would do some problem fixing.

It is time that rules for ownership of clubs were installed and the only ones who can do that are the Board of Commissioners.

I'm not having a shot at the office

workers at Paddo, the Kamaszs and Woolleys and others who have to live in the wake of our constantly self-inflicted turmoil.

I'm having a shot at the BIG guys, the ones who determine policy.

We have a situation in which some of our clubs are owned by overseas investors, some are owned by state federations, some are owned by private franchises and some are run by old-fashioned committees.

Wake up, Australia, it is high time that there were rules in place for who owns soccer clubs and how they are administered.

And it is time that the coaches got themselves together into something like a union and decided to do the right thing by each other.

Then again, it is probably time I popped over to the Corrimal Court had a couple of beers and kicked the cat.

Soccer can be like that in a typical day down Corrimal.

Wheatley's World

IN the 2 February issue of *Inside Soccer* Robbie Wheatley wrote that Sydney Olympic had played at a few different grounds for their home matches over the years and asked readers to help him out if he had missed any.

Olympic have had as many different home grounds as they have had coaches (nearly).

Below is the complete list of 'home' grounds Sydney Olympic have used since the NSL began in 1977;

Wentworth Park

Erskineville Oval

Barton Stadium (aka St George Stadium)

Sydney Sports Ground

Marconi Stadium

Lambert Park

Pratten Park

Croatian Sports Centre

Sydney Football Stadium

Arlington Oval

Parramatta Stadium

Leichhardt Oval

Belmore Sports Ground

Hope this of some interest.

Jim Jones

Blacktown NSW

Clacker & The Dutch

MEMO: Northern Spirit supporters and Clayton Zane's inability to score goals.

Last season playing for the Breakers, who were a bottom rung club, he scored 17 goals all up.

This season in a much better team he has scored one lousy goal after half a season.

The question is: "Is it Zane's bad form or is the real reason Graham Arnold's coaching style and tactics?"

Arnold is trying to make the Spirit players play it Ajax Dutch style.

This is a very tall order and something that is unfamiliar and alien to the rest of the players.

R Melor

Bondi NSW

(You must be talking about Ajax the bathroom cleaner, surely?)

I don't think for one moment that Arnie would ever suggest that his style is similar to the Dutch ideal of 'total football'. His players are playing the ball on the ground, and why not?

They have excellent midfielders in Kresimir

Your WRITE

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Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

Marusic and the hard-working ball carrier Robbie Slater.

He certainly isn't playing a long-ball game but I haven't even sniffed any of the trademarks of the Dutch game.

of the Super League clubs are in favour of Summer Soccer with the four district-based clubs definitely opposed, and one undecided.

Some of the problems I see with Summer Soccer

favour of the move have grounds suitable for night soccer. At present seven Super League clubs share their grounds with their Youth League teams leaving no time for ground maintenance or rejuvenation.

3. Under 18 Competition: For association-based clubs it is imperative that the 18s competition is kept as a link between Youth League and senior soccer as a career path for local players.

4. Referees: Availability of the top referees would be very limited, due to NSL commitments creating a problem with sub-standard refereeing.

5. Availability of Players/Player Opinions: From a consultant's report commissioned by Soccer NSW "66% of players surveyed said that a move to summer soccer would be a bad or very bad move whereas only 14% felt that it would be a good or very good move. Of the 14%, only one in six players felt the move to summer soccer would result in more crowds or

Media Double Talk

SOME interesting comments have been made by soccer people to the media recently.

Bill Collins, the real force at Newcastle Breakers, while talking about the mystery consortium planning to take over the team claims not to know the identity of the person involved although he is quite adamant that Rene Rivkin isn't.

John Taylor, quoting a Sydney United official in the *Daily Telegraph* wrote: "With three of our former players now at Northern Spirit many of our own supporters are caught up in the Spirit hype, and we can't compete because of a lack of resources. Interestingly last season these same supporters, who now supposedly travel long distances to North Sydney Oval, couldn't be bothered to travel the shorter distance (for them) to Parramatta Stadium which is a far superior venue for soccer than North Sydney Oval ever will be."

I wonder what Dr John Hewson thinks of the above comments by the Sydney United official - if he is aware of them?

R Melor

Bondi NSW

Spirit are just playing football suited to their players, and doing a pretty good job of it too. Zane's form?

Maybe the tall forward really needs to play in a long ball team. I wouldn't disagree that he has shown deficiencies when it comes to adapting to a far better style of football but he is still young and has a fair bit of talent. Maybe under Arnie it will come out. - Ed).

Summer Super League

I REFER to your interviews with NSWFSF President Peter Gray and in particular references to the Super League competition changing from a summer format in October 1999.

At present only seven

are; 1. Promotion and Marketing: At present the only mainstream media coverage of Super League is when the NSL is finished. Even the soccer specific publications cannot promote the Super league fully until the NSL is in recess. At present the Promotion and Marketing of the Super league is almost non-existent. The Soccer NSW Consultants Report supports this view.

2. Ground and Facilities: If the switch to summer soccer was made only four of the clubs in

better media exposure."

6. Spectators: District-based clubs such as Macarthur, Central Coast, Eastern Suburbs and Ryde will have limited opportunity to adequately promote their matches because the local soccer associations and club network would be in recess while people pursue summer sports and activities. This alienation of district-based clubs from the support base is a complete turnaround from NSWFSF's position of two years ago when their stated aim was to

Continued on page 18

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TIME to register for round ball action in 1999.

For tens of thousands of players around the country, registration days started over the weekend and continue in February.

At schools, club grounds and shopping centres keen soccer lovers from 5 to well over 35 joined a local club. Hope you were one of them.

AT WARRINGAH Mall this Saturday at the appropriately named Dolphins square, clubs from the southern end of Manly Warringah Association meet to celebrate the season start.

Activity gets underway at 9.30am with prizes, competitions and autographs from northern Spirit players.

AND you thought you were a big club!

Wheatley's World was informed by long-time Sutherland Association President Harry Denning that the blossoming Menai Hawks club now exceeds 100 teams.

Hawks headquarters at Buckle reserve, including Registrar Wally Kohler, will be flat out over the next seven months.

THE INTERNATIONAL Soccer expo is coming to town.

News Limited papers delivered last week contained a superb insert outlining the features of the Expo to be held at Homebush in June.

The event coincides with the FIFA All Stars v Soccerroo encounter on June 12.

What a weekend that will be.

The Expo is a first class opportunity for exhibitors and sports suppliers, together with fans, coaches, managers and officials of soccer, to catch up with the latest industry trends.

Keep an eye on this column and

WHEATLEY'S WORLD



David Barrett: the Sydney schoolteacher is in United's B Brigade

Inside Soccer for weekly updates.

BAUMGARTNER continues to fly the flag.

When lethal left-footed legend of the '60s Leo Baumgartner left for the north coast of NSW 10 years ago not

even Leo thought he'd be encouraging talent to turn to the big smoke on the eve of the new millennium.

Over the last three days the MacKay Valley Rangers SCA Kempsey-based club team made a southern pilgrimage with Leo at the helm.

And how does this programme sound for dedication?

On the trip they dropped into Birmingham Gardens for the Newcastle v Olympic clash, spent Saturday night watching Blacktown defeat Eastern Suburbs in the opening

round of the NSW Super league and topped the weekend off with the Round 19 NSL encounter between Sydney United and Adelaide City.

By the way Leo's side knocked over a Sydney United combination 2-0 on the Sunday afternoon.

Now that's a soccer-saturated four days.

TOP SIX live coverage continues on the ABC this Sunday (Valentines Day) when Northern Spirit and Carlton face off.

Don't forget that earlier kick off time at 5pm.

NSL CLUB review time has arrived.

Yearly assessment of all clubs including interviewing of officials, inspection of financial statements as well as other aspects, such as ground improvements and on-field performance starts soon.

Wouldn't mind being a fly on the wall during Gippsland, Canberra, Sydney United and Adelaide Sharks discussions.

And I nearly forgot to mention the Melbourne Knights.

Creative accountants looking for tough challenges should speak to the editor!

SYDNEY United's B team.

Second placed United can look to the dynamic goalscoring duo of Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths, with a combined total of 9 strikes between them.

However, regular Puma's faithful, and they are not an extinct breed yet, point to the tireless efforts of the B Brigade.

Experienced defenders Barrett and Barnett, together with midfielder Berry and emerging playmaker Burns. All B Boys have been in the starting eleven at least in 14 of United's 18 matches to date.

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Zidane: 1998 World Player of the Year

By Phil Minshull

France and Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane won the 1998 FIFA Player of the Year award last week at a ceremony in Barcelona.

France's two-goal World Cup-winning hero received an overwhelming majority of votes in a poll of 132 national coaches.

He polled 518 votes to the 164 of Ronaldo of Brazil and Inter Milan, winner of the annual contest for the last two years.

Croatia and Real Madrid striker Davor Suker was third with 108.

Five points were awarded for a first place, three for second and one for third.

Zidane dedicated the honour to his international and club team mates.

"Football is a team sport although of course

ProFILE: Zinedine Zidane

1972: Born June 23, Marseille, France.

1988: Joined AS Cannes. Scored 6 goals in 61 league appearances for the club.

1992: Joined Girondins Bordeaux. Scored 28 goals in 139 league appearances for the club during four seasons.

1994: August 17, made French international debut versus Czech Republic. Scored two goals in 17 minutes.

1995-96: UEFA Cup runner-up with Bordeaux.

1996: Moved to Juventus. Has helped the club to two Serie A titles in his first two full seasons.

1996: Won the European Super Cup and the Intercontinental Cup with Juventus.

1998: June 1 sent off after 70 minutes of France's 4-0 first round victory over Saudi Arabia. Misses France's next two matches.

1998: July 12 heads two first-half goals to help France win their first World Cup with a 3-0 victory over Brazil.

1998: December 21, wins the Reuters 1998 Sports Personality of the Year poll.

1998: December 21, wins the 1998 European Player of the Year award - the Ballon d'Or.

1999: February 1, wins FIFA 1998 World Player of the Year award.

individual awards mean a lot. This award is particularly important to me," he said.

Earlier, he had admitted that he had sometimes struggled to come to terms with the celebrity



Zinedine Zidane with runners-up Davor Suker and Ronaldo

status he had acquired after the World Cup.

"Sometimes it is difficult but it feels good," he said.

Zidane was voted European Player of the Year in December in another one-sided poll and other media awards have gone his way too.

But he did not offer the accolades to excuse his often indifferent performances with the Italian champions this season.

"This has been a difficult season for everybody at Juventus. Many players are not always playing up to their potential," Zidane said.

Ronaldo admitted that his form over the year had not been good enough to be voted top player again.

"I must say honestly I don't deserve the award. There are other players who deserve it more than me," the Brazilian said.

Suker, whose six goals at France 98 won him the Golden Shoe award as the leading World Cup scorer, seemed the most delighted and surprised of the three men invited on to the stage at the Teatro Nacional de Catalunya.

After a difficult two

seasons at Real Madrid, during which he was consigned to the bench at last year's European Cup final until a minute from the end, it was a reward for his widely recognised talent as one of the most dangerous men in the penalty area.

Many of the game's former greats were recognised at the FIFA gala.

Just Fontaine, Garrincha, Bobby Moore, Gerd Muller and Dino Zoff were inducted into the FIFA-recognised International Football Hall of Fame, which is expected to have a permanent home soon.

Bobby Charlton, an initial member of the Hall of Fame last year and in Barcelona to receive the France 98 Fair Play award won by England, was critical of some trends in the present game.


"There are certain things that disappoint me such as forwards diving and trying to get opponents sent off.

"There are more players trying to do things illegally and getting things they don't deserve. The game has to be fair," the 1966 World Cup winner said.



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Bozza might stay as Filan shines at Villa

STAR Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has not ruled out staying with English premier league soccer club Aston Villa.

Bosnich, who has not played for Villa since injuring his shoulder in October, is widely expected to leave the premiership contender when his contract expires in a couple of months.

But he has told London's Sunday Mirror that he intends to discuss his future with the club shortly, despite previous indications that Villa would not be prepared to meet his financial demands.

"Hopefully I'll be playing in a couple of weeks, then I can sit down and talk," Bosnich said.

"I've always wanted to give Villa the chance to



talk to me first."

Aston Villa has lost its last three matches and a fully fit Bosnich would offer the side a desper-

ately needed impetus.

And an immaculate performance by Australian goalkeeper John Filan has guided Blackburn

to an upset 3-1 win over Bosnich's team, Aston Villa. In a best on field effort, Filan produced several spectacular saves to maintain his outstanding recent form, which has kept former England keeper Tim Flowers out of the Blackburn team.

Villa's third consecutive loss saw it slump to fourth on the table, with its premiership hopes fading fast.

BELGIANS AFTER PAUL

BELGIAN side Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen is having talks with Paul Okon according to European reports.

However, Marconi Fairfield are still confident of signing their former star midfielder to a short term contract.

A decision on the Socceroo's future is likely in the next week or so.

Edwards in and Milosevic out as Glory look to get on track

By Scott Coghlan

Perth Glory's bid to end its dangerous form slump hit another hurdle, with star goalkeeper Danny Milosevic ruled out of last weekend's clash with the Adelaide Sharks at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Milosevic, one of Australia's most promising goalkeepers, injured his right ankle at Glory training and was replaced by reserve Tony Franken for the game.

Franken was Perth's first choice 'keeper last season and has already been used on several occasions this season, when Milosevic has been on national duties or injured.

The Glory were also

without captain Gareth Naven and the striker Bobby Despotovski, both of whom were suspended, while James Afkos, Vinko Buljasic and Tony Carbone were all unavailable due to injury.

After being the early NSL trendsetter with an eight match unbeaten run, the Glory has slipped out of the Top Six.

However, Glory rushed through the registration of 31-year-old striker Alistair Edwards in time for the former Socceroo to make his weekend debut.

"I haven't been signed to sit on the bench," Edwards told *Inside Soccer*.

"There are quite a few

players out of the side just now and I have been brought in to build up the attack."

Ironically, Glory have an over abundance of strikers but they have all either lost form, are injured or are out suspended. The move to sign Edwards is a clear sign that Glory mean business in their push for an historic first-ever finals spot.

Edwards has 20 Socceroo caps to his credit.

Perth general manager Roger Lefort said Edwards would be a welcome addition to the Perth side.

"Alistair is fit for action and has impressed coach Bernd Stange," he said.

"The time has come to get back on track and Alistair will help us do that, especially considering that our supposed crisis has consisted of mainly single goal defeats and draws."

NEXT WEEK:
Alistair Edwards
speaks EXCLUSIVELY
to Inside Soccer

FIFA satisfied in Nigeria

By Eniwoke Ibagere

A FIFA inspection team has said that despite some "little problems", it was satisfied Nigerian soccer facilities were adequate to host the World Youth Cup in April.

"Questions about poor security, health, and accommodation in Nigeria are imaginary ... Nigeria will host the tournament," Jack Warner, head of the FIFA delegation, told a news conference in Lagos at the end of a five-day inspection visit.

"There are little problems in some of the stadiums ... talking about pitches and floodlights. But we are sure all these will be taken care of before March."

Foreign teams expecting to take part have expressed concern about the health, safety and happiness of their

players during the tournament in the country of at least 108 million with a reputation for crime, disease and instability.

FIFA stopped Nigeria hosting the tournament in 1995, citing health and security reasons at a time when the then military regime of Africa's most populous nation was accused of widespread human rights abuses.

Political worries eased after military ruler General Abdulsalami Abubakar last year freed scored of prisoners detained by his late predecessor and promised to step down in May for an elected president.

"The message I give to the world is those safety concerns of 1995 aren't here," said Warner.

"We'll return by the end of February, before the draw on March 5, to ensure instructions given to Nigerian '99 organisers were followed."

Stallions give tirals to Bingley and Hooker

By Derek Royal

FORMER Soccerooos Matthew Bingley and Robbie Hooker have been training with Marconi-Fairfield but whether either player has signed a contract remains unknown.

Bingley, one of the Stallions' favourite sons, has spent the past two seasons playing in the Japanese League and is rumoured to be on the lookout for a start in the Ericsson Cup.

Recent reports suggested Northern Spirit was interested in signing Bingley but the club decided it couldn't justify paying the player's exorbitant wage demands.

According to *Inside Soccer* sources, Bingley hasn't trained for three months and it will probably take him a good month or so to reach a suitable level of fitness.

Hooker played for Sydney United last season but parted company with the Edensor Park club to pursue a career in China.

But last Saturday, the former Socceroo played in a friendly match for Marconi against Korean club Hyundai.



Matthew Bingley: training at Marconi

According to sources, Hooker struggled through the match and appeared to lack match fitness.

"I don't think they'll sign him because he doesn't look fit," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"He looked ordinary but then again, playing against a nippy team like the Koreans probably didn't do him any favours either."

Neither did the heat-wave conditions on a sweltering Sydney evening. Indeed, Marconi suffered a 3-1 defeat to a classy Hyundai side, but the match gave coach Frank Farina the opportunity to keep his players match fit.

While Marconi has struggled in recent months, with seven first team players missing through an alarming injury and suspension crisis, the likes of Ante Covic, Brendan Renaud, Dominic Lougo and Sean Babic will be available for this weekend's clash against Canberra Cosmos; while Mike Smith and Mark Babic are due back from foot injuries within the next two to three weeks.

Fully fit, Hooker and Bingley would be welcome additions to the Stallions' squad, especially with the wretched run Farina's team has had through injury.

29 MAN YOUTH SQUAD NAMED

SOCCER Australia has announced a preliminary 29-man squad for the World Youth Championships, to be held in just two months time in Nigeria.

Coach Les Scheinflug will take the squad into camp at Parklea from 22-26 February before announcing a reduced final squad.

Four overseas-based players have been included; Vince Grella (Empoli), Nick Rizzo (Crystal Palace), Michael Ferrante (West Ham) and John Maisano (Westerlo).

During the camp the Young Soccerooos will play two friendlies against a visiting South Korean Under 20 team

and then will leave on March 10 for further training camps in Holland Spain.

Finally, they will travel to Nigeria on March 30.

The World Youth Championship will be staged between 3-24 April and the players will be available to their clubs before the Ericsson Cup finals series begins.

THE SQUAD; Goalkeepers: A Broaden, B Swancott, M John, M Turnbull. Defenders: L Wilson, D Terminello, P Wearne, E Bosnar, M Santalab, S Colosimo, M Langdon, D Invincible. Midfielders: T Dodd, N Sabljak, M Cunico, C Care, B Emerton, V Grella, M Ferrante, N Rizzo, M Bresciano, J Culina, A Cuzzupe, I Ergic, P Reid. Strikers: J Maisano, M Sterjovski, J Griffiths, D Watkins.

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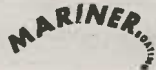
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Makris is like a little child: Poimer

By Sam Lienert

Adelaide Sharks striker Derek Poimer has described the sacking of coach Manfred Schaefer as just one aspect of the chaos within the club.

Sharks owner Con Makris, who took control of the club at the start of the season, told the players on Saturday night that Schaefer would be replaced with Adrian Santrac for the remainder of the season after six winless matches.

Poimer said the sacking came as no surprise but the timing, on the eve of an important game against Carlton, and the appointment of Santrac, who was replaced by Schaefer for the start of this season, came as a shock.

"I think Makris just wanted Manfred out, there was a personality clash," Poimer told *Inside Soccer*.

"There's been a lot of problems on and off the field with the privatisation and this is just another one, it is a bit of chaos, you just can't make sense of it."

Poimer said the club had been run poorly throughout the season and now Makris had used Schaefer as a scapegoat because the team was not meeting his expectations.

"While we were win-

Want-away Sharks star slams owner



Poimer: critical

ning he (Makris) was quite workable, he seems

he was considering offers he had received from interstate.

He said he would discuss his future with the Sharks management in the next few days.

"Even before he got the sack I was really struggling, when a good offer comes up in Sydney from a team you'd like to play for it's hard to justify being in Adelaide," Poimer said.

He said the players had

things, a coach doesn't score own goals, a coach doesn't miss goals, that's the players' responsibility, myself included," Poimer said.

But fellow player Hamilton Thorp said something needed to change and it was normal for the coach to take the blame.

"Basically that's football really, once the team's not doing well it is always the coach who gets it first," Thorp



Schaefer: ousted, but the Sharks may follow the same route

FACING THE AXE

THE recent conduct of Adelaide Sharks sees the likelihood that they will not be playing Ericsson Cup soccer next season at Hindmarsh - or anywhere else for that matter.

With a litany of unpaid debts, late player payments and unrest with both the club's office and playing staffs the writing is one the wall for the troubled South Australian club, for a fleeting period in the '70s one of the powers of the Australian game.

And it seems that Adelaide Sharks are losing friends within the corridors of power at Soccer Australia and, according to non-accredited reports from Paddington, may struggle to meet next season's league criteria requirements.

like a little child, he should realise that losing happens in sport," he said.

Poimer said the appointment of Schaefer was the main reason he had left Sydney Olympic to come to Adelaide and

to carry the blame for the poor recent record with the team continually finding ways to lose winnable matches.

"Manfred got us off to a good start and over the last few weeks players did disappointing

said.

"I thought it was unfair but when you lose five out of six games and don't look like winning a change is needed."

Makris told Channel Ten news Santrac would be caretaker coach for the

rest of the season and would then be considered for the permanent job.

He also said the Sharks were considering leaving Hindmarsh Stadium to

play at Thebarton Oval in an attempt to lift the small home crowds.

Schaefer said he could not comment on his future at this stage.

Santrac said he was not worried about the club's off-field problems and

would concentrate on turning the team around on the field.

"I'm not concerned about anything that I can't control, I can work with the players to try

to improve our results, off the field is out of my hands," Santrac said.

He said most experts had now written the Sharks off for the rest of the season but he believed there was still time to get back into the

top six.

"Anything is possible, I never say never," Santrac said.

"The finals are achievable but we need to address the immediate issues.

"We have to get our house in order and ensure we play as a unit.

"It will be a slow process, but the players appear to be willing to knuckle down and do the job."

Thompson situation drags on

TUG Of war player Archie Thompson returned to the Gippsland Falcons team last weekend after serving out a one man suspension.

Nicknamed the 'Bullet From The Bush' Thompson hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons when Carlton and the Falcons went into a public spat over where he should play.

Under the terms of standard NSL player contracts Thompson was free to speak, or sign, with any other club six months from the date of the termination of his current agreement.

And after signing a two year deal with Carlton two weeks ago it was assumed that Gippsland would let him away for what has been referred to as a "token" fee of

\$30,000.

However, he remains under contract to the Gippsland Falcons until the end of the season and they are adamant that he will see that commitment out.

"Archie's got no problem in playing for us if that's how it works out," Gippsland coach Stuart Munro said before the weekend match in which the two sides ironically faced each other.

Now it remains to be seen whether Carlton will step up their bid and come closer to the \$50,000, plus overseas sell-on percentage, fee



that Gippsland are after.

Should they elect to wait until the end of the season and go to a compensation tribunal then Carlton are likely to be forced to pay out at least that amount as well as anything up to 40% of an overseas sell-on.

Blatter hints at co-hosts for 2006

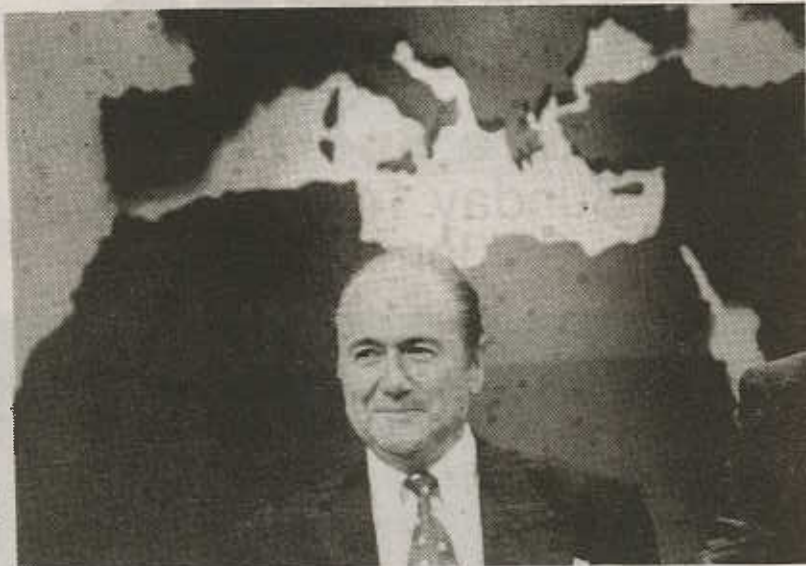
FIFA president Sepp Blatter, reaffirming his support for the 2006 World Cup to be staged in Africa, has not ruled out two nations co-hosting the tournament.

"If an African bidder has the necessary technical, logistical and security conditions, it would be Africa's turn to stage the World Cup" in 2006, Blatter said.

Five African nations have formally declared their interest to stage the 2006 World Cup: Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Ghana and Nigeria. England, Brazil and Germany are also bidding.

"As long as a country is able to stage the World Cup by itself, then it should be staged in one country," Blatter said.

"But we should wait until 2002 has been played," he said.



"Then we'll have the experience and we'll see whether it was good."

The 2002 World Cup will be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea. FIFA chose the compromise to avoid a bruising battle between two members of the same conti-

nental federation.

Defending his plan to stage the World Cup every two years, Blatter said it would strengthen the national teams, which are coming under pressure from rich clubs involved in more competi-

Continental championships should serve as qualifications for the World Cup and domestic league programs should be reduced to free up space for more international fixtures, Blatter said.

Sterrey's Newcastle odd couple

By TONY MOFFITT

THE Newcastle Breakers have a striking combination that could be a genuine lethal weapon in the NSL - if only that last vital touch was a little more accurate.

Between them Korean Sang-Chul Yoon and John Buonavoglia create the sort of havoc for defences that get opposition coaches reaching for the panadol.

However, opposition headaches will become

nightmares if the pairing ever gel.

Big target-man Yoon and pocket-dynamo Buonavoglia have all the skills on the ball.

They form a formidable 'odd couple' at the sharp end of the Breakers team, but the sting coach Lee Sterrey is looking for remains inconsistent and elusive.

In many games this season the pairing has created countless opportunities that only needed one more pass, one touch less, or just one ounce of

luck to develop into a full-blown scoring chance.

But coach Sterrey has fended off criticism of the team's strikers.

"I'm certainly not suicidal," Sterrey told *Inside Soccer*.

"However, we haven't been as deadly in front of goal (at times) as we should have been.

"We lack punch in some instances and we need to convert more of the chances we create.

"It's the execution that can let us down."

But Sterrey denied the problem had anything to do with communication.

Yoon is currently attending English language classes.

"He doesn't need to speak English," Sterrey said.

"He's a very experienced, talented footballer. He understands football language.

"He knows where he has to be on the park, and he knows what to do when he gets the ball.

"That's all that matters."

Poimer deal off

By Derek Royal



Derek Poimer: he won't be joining Spirit

Northern Spirit's audacious bid to lure Adelaide Sharks' striker Derek Poimer to North Sydney Oval has failed.

With the transfer deadline looming, Spirit coach Graham Arnold was hoping to snare the former Sydney Olympic star in a bid to improve his team's strike-power.

But Arnold told *Inside Soccer* that the deal was off because of the Sharks' refusal to release him.

"The Adelaide Sharks won't release him and I've got nothing against that," said Arnold.

"They rate him highly and so do I.

"Adrian Santrac (Adelaide Sharks coach) doesn't want to part with him and neither does the club's president, so we've just got to move on."

Spirit's attacking record is one of the worst in the Ericsson Cup, with Clayton Zane's goal-scoring drought forcing the onus onto the likes of play-makers Robbie Slater and Kresimir Marusic to score goals.

"I've tried to take the

pressure off Clayton Zane because I know that when teams don't score goals, the strikers are always blamed," said Arnold.

"I know what that's like."

One of Australia's greatest goal-scorers, Arnold's decision not to play in the position that netted him more than 100 goals as an overseas professional comes as a surprise.

"I'm enjoying my new role as a sweeper," said Arnold.

"And I also feel that I've lost my sharpness around the box."

Arnold also believes that it's impossible to play and coach a team

from up front.

"Mainly because it's difficult to lead the side with your back to the action," he said.

"I know Frank Farina did it at Brisbane a couple of years ago, but he had big Alan Hunter at the back who was experienced and could help out."

Spirit's defence has been the team's saviour, conceding just eighteen goals in as many rounds and with Arnold marshalling a young backline, that's not surprising.

"I've got a young keeper, Mark Rudan's only 22 and Paul Bilokapic is 21," says the Northern Spirit coach.

"We're a new side, and while it was hard in the beginning, I think I've adjusted quite well and the players like me back there.

"I just feel those two jobs are hard to combine."

Arnold may be convinced but to many football followers out there, it's bizarre that one of Australia's greatest goal-grabbers isn't playing up front in a team struggling to find the back of the net.

West Ham to join Parra stakeholding

SOCCER Australia is set to hold further talks with the Parramatta leagues club consortium as it moves closer to its February 20 AGM.

Despite a story which appeared in last week's *Inside Soccer* which quoted Blacktown City official Ken Schembri as saying that his club had not been approached it is believed that there is already a strong commitment from the west Sydney club to be part of the new franchise.

And adding fuel to the speculation is a report which suggests that West Ham United, who also financially

support Blacktown City as part of their youth development programme, is likely to take a minor stake holding in the Parramatta franchise which has applied to join the NSL next season.

It is said that the major stakeholder will be the Parramatta Leagues Club, backed by the soccer infrastructure of both NSW Super League clubs Parramatta Eagles and Blacktown City who would also be involved in the shareholding.

Former State Labor MP Gary Punch is also said to be a likely stakeholder.

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*Please check daily press for changed times

Knights want the cash, not games

Croatia Zagreb's suggestion that it pay Melbourne Knights their share of the Mark Viduka transfer through friendly matches has been described as "laughable".

The Knights are waiting for their slice of Viduka's move to Scottish champions Celtic and are running out of patience with the Glasgow club and Zagreb.

The cash-strapped Victorian club stands to pick up \$A1.58 million from the \$A7.94 million transfer as part of an on-going deal with Zagreb.

Celtic says it will pay the Knights their 20 per cent of the deal soon, but Zagreb wants all the money to go through its bankers.

Zagreb is prepared to take the matter to FIFA which would further delay the flow of cash as the football authority already has a backlog of cases.

The *Glasgow Herald* quoted Zagreb chief executive Damir Vrbanovick as saying his club, if FIFA rules in its favour, may look to settle with Melbourne Knights not with a cheque but through friendly matches.

Knights' president Steve Mandekic said the Croatian club had to be kidding.

"We need the money to survive, we'll play a friendly against them sure, but only after we get the money," he said.



"What do they think we are some sort of charitable institution or something?"

"We have commitments to meet."

Vrbanovick said how the money was paid to the Knights was between his club and the Victorians.

"It may be we shall ask the club over to Zagreb to play in a tournament here in the summer, or we may go there to play a game for them," he said.

"Whatever happens, it is

between Croatia Zagreb and Melbourne Knights."

The Knights would obviously prefer that the already delayed payment for Viduka come directly from Glasgow.

The Socceroo is now training with Celtic after leaving the Glasgow club days after his arrival in December.

Viduka is now playing catch up at training and with Celtic winning 5-0 against St Johnstone last week there appears no need to rush him into the side.

The Young Guns of the NSL

NOEL SPENCER

Wollongong City Wolves

By Stuart Jones

NOEL Spencer is another young player who has progressed through soccer's ranks to become a young star in the NSL.

He plays for Wollongong in the midfield alongside other young starlets like Paul Reid and it is not unknown for him to show a competitive edge on the field.

Looking at his play that would surprise many who may instead see him as a more graceful midfielder.

But when you look at some the men Spencer marks, a couple of hard, legal tackles from the Wolves player and they go very quiet.

Many noted in the South Melbourne game that Paul Trimboli was very quiet; lay that at the fact that Spencer was man-marking him.

Look at the first couple of tackles made by Spencer.

He may not be as blatant as Paul Ince but he is as effective.

However that is not his main game, and he enjoys the central midfield role where he can distribute

the ball around the field, and, as any Wolves fan would know, Noel Spencer is not averse to shooting from any range.

Spencer was born in Wollongong to English parents.

His first club was Konnewarre Swans where he spent ten years.

As a 15-year-old he played Wollongong Premier League with Ly-saghts and stayed there for a couple of years before joining the Wolves.



He played in the club's National Youth League side for a while before debuting in the NSL.

During all his time in soccer Spencer has played in the midfield although except for a spell with the Aussie schoolboys when he was tried at sweeper in couple of games.

Spencer's first Australian representation came at schoolboy level when he played alongside the likes of Steve Riches (now WestHam), Raphael Bove (Heerenveen), Nick Bosevski (ex Marconi / Sydney United) and Nathan Wildy (Adelaide

Sharks).

He has also played for the Olyroos and went with them on tour to South America last year.

"My experience in the Olyroos was great," he says.

"The quality of players around you meant that you always learnt new things and the whole atmosphere was much more professional. In South America we played two internationals and ten or so club games.

"When we first got to Argentina the conditions where we stayed were not great, but

Raul (Blanco) said it would toughen us up.

"This all made us a very close group which I think helped the side.

"In Chile things were much better, we actually stayed in a proper hotel.

"We trained twice a day which was great and different for me.

"They were short 1 - 1 1/4 hour sessions which were sharp and high intensity.

"The training was also very physical which was great.

"One day we played in conditions where no game should have been played and came off covered in

mud but it toughened us up.

"I think Raul has learnt a lot from Terry Venables and that coupled with his own ideas on football has given a harder edge to the boys."

Noel's NSL debut came against Canberra at Seifert Sportsground in 1996/97.

He played in the midfield with Anthony Surjan and Martin Bourke in a game which the Wolves won 4-2.

He started the following home match against Collingwood and scored, one of three goals he has scored to date (the others being against Sydney Olympic and Gippsland, one a season.)

At the beginning of last season there was a lot of talk of him moving away from Wollongong, his local side.

In fact there was an offer on the table but he knocked it back: "My manager had an offer from Northern Spirit and there were plenty of people telling me to move up there.

"However the reason I stayed was I did not see

myself gaining regular first team football in Sydney.

"That was the one thing Raul had said to us on the way back from South America.

"At the time eight or so of us in the 18 were not getting regular first team footy and he said that was a must.

"I have gained first team football this season and am really enjoying it."

And the reason Noel

has finally secured a regular place?

"My approach has changed," he says.

"I have started to become more physical in my approach.

"Mentally I have also strengthened and am continually telling myself no-one is going to take my position off me.

"Every game I go out to prove a point.

"I stay focused before a game and I am a bad loser.

"That all coupled together has made me a better player for the team.

"Nick Theodorakopoulos is a great motivator before the games, he plants positive thoughts.

"His attacking style in games also helps my game out."

The irony is now that Noel has a regular place with his club he has been left out of the Olyroo squad.

However after there recent performances he is likely to be selected again sooner rather than later.

What many people do not know about Noel Spencer is he actually has trialed in the UK.

In fact, he was there at 18 years of age trialing for Manchester City, Sheffield United and Nottingham Forest (not far from his father's birthplace, Mansfield).

"I did not get much of a chance in my first two trials, it was more a case of 'great you are here, play ten minutes here and there', he remembers.

In fact his City trial was under Alan Ball and his appreciation of Aussie players (or lack of) is

well known.

"However under Frank Clark at Forest things were great," says Spencer.

"I played a couple of reserve matches (against the likes of Leicester City and Shrewsbury) and they extended my trial from a week to a couple more.

"In the end they would have offered me a YTS spot but all the places were full.

"I loved living the life of a footballer over there.

"At the time Stuart Pearce was captain and he was treated like God.

"I also got to see a couple of matches at Mansfield and Chelsea and the support was so fanatical.

"I was disappointed not to have made it in England but now I am trying to achieve that ambition using another route, through playing in the NSL and for the Olyroos until at least after the Olympics."

That last sentence covers his ambitions well although added to that would be national first team representation.

Overall, Noel Spencer has had the sort of football life that many young players aspire too.

He would encourage those who aspire to step up in their career to work hard, be focused on your goals and dedicate yourself to achieving them.

Noel Spencer is another young player in the NSL who has started his senior career earlier than he may have years ago thanks to the player drain overseas.

However he has made that step comfortably.

United bring in squillions: it's official

By David Anderson

Manchester United are officially the richest club in the world.

The Old Trafford outfit dwarf every other side, including the big guns of Italy and Spain, when it comes to earnings power.

A survey conducted by chartered accountants Deloitte & Touche in conjunction with football magazine FourFourTwo showed that United's turnover in the season ended in 1997 was £87.94million.

That figure is nearly £30million more than second-placed Barcelona, whose turnover for the same period was £58.87million.

United chairman Martin Edwards claimed the

club's commercial empire has been built on the back of Alex Ferguson's transformation of the side in the 1990s.

"Obviously we run the club very much as a business, but everything emanates from the football side," he said.

Gerry Boon, chairman of Deloitte & Touche's Football Industry Team, said: "Manchester United is one of the most famous brands in the world.

"Despite having smaller crowds than some of its Italian and Spanish rivals, it still earns more income."

FourFourTwo editor Matt Tench said United's marketing success is quite remarkable.

"It's a mark of Man-

chester United's success that they can sell replica shirts to kids in the Far East who probably don't even know where Manchester is," he said.

The Premiership has five clubs in the world's 20 richest clubs, and after United the most affluent English side is Newcastle in eighth place with a turnover of £41.13million.

Liverpool are ninth on £39.15million, Tottenham 16th on £27.87million and Arsenal 20th on £27.16million.

It should be remembered that these standings are based on financial results prior to the Gunners winning the Double and competing in the Champions'

League.

Rangers are the only Scottish team in the top 20 and they were ranked 14th with a £31.66m turnover.

The world's 20 richest clubs: 1 Manchester United £87.94million turnover; 2 Barcelona £58.87m; 3 Real Madrid £55.66m; 4 Juventus £53.22m; 5 Bayern Munich £51.62m; 6 AC Milan £47.48m; 7 Borussia Dortmund £42.2m; 8 Newcastle £41.13m; 9 Liverpool £39.15m; 10 Inter Milan £39.07m; 11 Flamengo £37.42m; 12 Atletico Madrid £32.38m; 13 Paris St Germain £31.7m; 14 Rangers £31.66m; 15 Roma £28.22m; 16 Tottenham £27.87m; 17 Ajax £27.8m; 18 Parma £27.76m; 19 Lazio £27.33m; 20 Arsenal £27.16m.

Talking Soccer

with Carlton S.C.'s SEAN DOUGLAS



Continuing on with my interview with ex-All White and Auckland Kings spokesman, Chris Turner.

What is your reaction to reports in the media in Australia that the current clubs do not want the Kings in the league?

"I simply believe that the support outweighs this. Soccer Australia and all Australians want the league to be the best it can be, and if that means bringing in international rivalry to boost attendances and raise the standard then it should be done."

So what benefits do you think the Kings will bring to the Ericsson Cup?

"As I said before, it will

bring an international flavour to the league. And even those people who say they don't want us in the league must be interested to see how we go, and will probably make sure they get down to the games that we play against their club.

"Besides that, there is the opportunity for corporate sponsors to now be 'seen' in two countries.

"And with the added TV exposure of another country, it must entice a few businesses to invest in the game."

Will you be promoting the team as a New Zealand team or an Auckland team? And will you play matches in other

cities besides Auckland?

"The Kings will be promoted as a New Zealand club side that is based in Auckland, and yes, we will be looking to play one or two games outside of Auckland."

Does Soccer New Zealand have any involvement in the venture? And if not, then do they approve?

"Soccer New Zealand have no involvement in the club, it will be an independently run club and will be run as a business. The company running the club is called 'Football Kings Limited', and it has the approval of Soccer New Zealand."

Cardozo chasing Traja's record

By Derek Royal

SYDNEY Olympic sharp-shooter Pablo Cardozo is close to smashing Kris Trajanovski's club goal-scoring record of 19 goals for an NSL season.

After 18 rounds, the former West Adelaide and Rapid Vienna (Austria) star has grabbed a remarkable 16 goals, just three short of Trajanovski's 1995-96 record.

But while coach Branko Culina is lavish in his praise of Olympic's new off-season acquisition, he wasn't so impressed with the 26-year-old when he first arrived at the club.

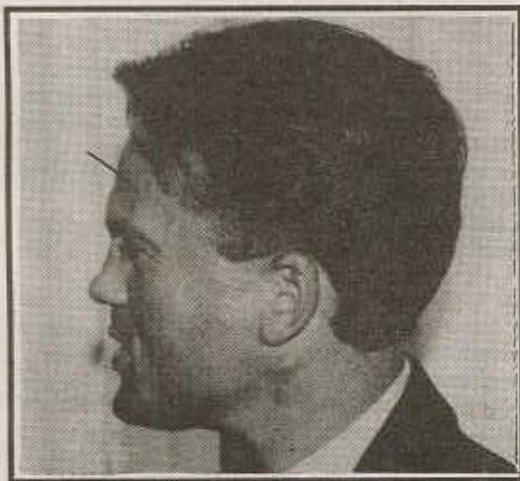
"In the pre-season games he probably had an attitude that prevented him from being a really top player at West Adelaide," Culina said.

"Tons of ability, but probably lacking in dedication to go all the way."

So, after missing a couple of training sessions Culina had a whisper in Cardozo's ear and told him a few home truths.

"I'm not one to go patting people on the back if

Culina rates star striker as a future Socceroo



Branko Culina: wasn't always impressed

they don't deserve it," said Culina.

"The only way you can improve is when someone constructively explains to you what you are doing well and what you need to be doing better."

"We did that with Pablo and while he didn't like it initially, to his

credit he got stuck in and has been one of our best performers since the first round."

Culina isn't just impressed with Cardozo's goal-poaching skills, he's also an admirer of his workrate.

"His workrate is phenomenal," he says.

"For Pablo to put in the

kind of work that he does and to still have the energy, strength and composure to score the way he does is just a testimony to his efforts and what a great player he is."

Indeed, Cardozo has gifts that few Australian strikers possess and he's far more than just an out-and-out striker.

He's cunning and skilful, not unlike Paul Trimboli, and his thirst for goals is unquenchable.

But is he good enough to play for Australia?

"Without a doubt," says his club coach.

"His goals speak for themselves."

"What you are getting is two in one with Pablo."

"You're getting a player who can score and create at the same time."

And Olympic's fickle supporters are sure to roar when Cardozo blazes home goal number 20.



Pablo Cardozo: his improved attitude is paying massive dividends for Olympic

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No foot shooting at United: Mitchell

By Derek Royal

SYDNEY United coach David Mitchell hasn't had too much to cheer about in the past two years.

His club's future remains in doubt and the former Socceroo is believed to be owed a princely five-figure sum by an organisation ruined by financial mismanagement.

Yet somehow, the former footballing journeyman has managed to stay calm amidst the chaos at Edensor Park - guiding a young team surviving on the sniff of an oily rag to the lofty heights of second place on the Ericsson Cup table.

"Yeah, the two years have been very difficult due to the financial strain of the club," Mitchell told *Inside Soccer*.

"But we try to keep ourselves away from that."

Mitchell, whose previous clubs include Feyenoord, Glasgow Rangers and Chelsea, has been impressed with his young team. But when asked to name those who have impressed him the most he doesn't hesitate in nominating play-maker



Walter Ardone: the former Sydney Olympic player has impressed Mitchell

Walter Ardone.

"Walter Ardone came over from Olympic for a lot less money than they were offering," he said.

"He came here for a

new United mentor has been happy with is-
youngster Michael Santalab.

"I'd like to give credit to Michael because at the

the team, doing very well and looking very solid.

"He's probably the most improved out of the lot."

Add midfielder Jacob

David Barrett and United's playing strength is obvious.

But Mitchell isn't getting too excited, at least not with more than ten matches to go before the semi-finals.

"Last year we were five points clear at the half-way mark and we sort of shot ourselves in the foot," he recalls.

"A few key players got injured, we lost a bit of heart and went down fast.

"But hopefully this year, that won't happen."

"The (past) two years have been very difficult due to the financial strain"

quarter of what they were offering and he's put in a lot of hard work.

"He's been outstanding this year."

Another player the Syd-

start of the year he wasn't in the team," he said.

"He's worked very hard, come in and done a great job.

"Now he's a regular in

Burns, sharp-shooters Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths, and a solid defensive line consisting of Richard Plesa, Joe Vrkic, Velimir Kupresak and

Rare goal feast only sounded a warning

A GOAL feast against arch-rivals Marconi-Fairfield is rare enough to justify lengthy celebrations.

Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina, however, waited until Friday night's match against improving Newcastle Breakers at Birmingham Gardens to decide just how much the previous weekend's 5-0 local derby win is worth.

"I'm going to reserve judgment," he said before traveling north to Newcastle.

"Newcastle have been playing well, and we haven't won away from home since the first round.

"It's a big psychological test. We can be a damn good side one week, and not so good a week later."

Skipper Peter Tsekenis was sidelined from the Newcastle match with a chest infection and regular starters Norman Tome and Chris Kalantzis

warmed the bench for the start of the match.



Legend faces reality at Knights Park

JOE BISKIC is a legend at Knights Park. He is not only the club's holder of the record for all-time NSL matches but lists 'little' honours like NSL Player of the Year in 1992 along with three Grand Final appearances, 1991, 1992 and 1994.

And a little known fact outside of the inner sanctum at Knights Park is that Biskic also coached a nine-year-old Mark Viduka for the club's juniors.

But legend or not, Biskic knows that it is results which will count in the end and despite the euphoria of his acceptance of the mantle of coach the veteran of 282 NSL games knows it could be a short stay.

"Both myself and Vid Horvat, who was a real gentleman, are in the same shoes," said the man now in the hot seat.

"If you can't get the results, it's always the coach who has to resign.

"You can put in the best training sessions, make the players happy, but you need to get results or you are out."

He says that luck plays a big part in success but deep down he knows that it is more than luck which will be required to take the Knights back to the glories of the early and mid years of this decade.

Then the Sunshine-based



club was brimful of exciting young talent of the calibre of the Cervinski brothers, Viduka, Skoko, Tiatto, Pondeljak and the old stagers, Alan Davidson, Andrew Marth and, of course, himself.

It was that blend of brilliant youth and experience which was the championship mix as Melbourne Knights became the undisputed masters of the Australian game.

But those days are gone and in their stead Biskic finds himself at the helm of a squad thin in genuine talent and without the kind of financial resources which could alter that picture.

It may well be that he decides on a blend of the best youth available to him but it would not come as a great shock if a couple of veterans found their way to Somers Street.

History counts for nothing

as the league struggles to adopt the changes being thrust as a result of its ever-increasing exposure.

For Joe Biskic, at least, the challenge is massive.

"I was the happiest man when the Knights won the championship in 1995," he recalls, even though he had missed that by some weeks after accepting a big-money offer to play for Selangor in Malaysia.

"Sure, I was a bit sad because I wasn't there to share it with the guys.

"But they left a grand final medal for me.

"They said: 'Joe, you were a part of this team'."

Biskic expresses his supreme confidence in the youth conveyor belt at his club but knows it will take time.

Time, it seems however, is something that isn't in abundant supply at Knights Park.

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Bugsy's View

with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney



JANUARY certainly hasn't been the best month for Marconi, but you won't find anyone at Bossley Park cutting their wrists with rusty razor blades!

It's no good feeling sorry for ourselves, and it's a case now of everybody having to get their sleeves rolled up, put our injury problems behind us and get on with the job.

We have eleven games to go before the Top Six places are decided, and we are fortunate enough to have seven of those at home.

Marconi need to win at least six of these home games and pick up the odd point or two from our travels to make the top six, and while that may sound like a big ask to some people, I'm confident that we are more than capable of finishing the season in style.

It really has been a horrific time for us injury wise, and although I don't want to use injuries as an excuse for us slipping out of the Top Six, one can't help but think of where we may have been in the league had our casualty list not been so high.

Whoever said that football was a funny old game certainly knew what he or she was talking about, especially when you compare our early league record against our last few matches.

After starting the season



with a 3-2 loss to the Brisbane Strikers at Suncorp Stadium we strung together a run of 8 games without defeat, before Carlton beat us 2-0 at Marconi.

Up until that game we more or less had a settled side, but around that time our injury jinx was starting to bite, and has bit us severely ever since!

When you consider that Ante Covic, Pan Keun Kim, Brendan Renaud, Dominic Longo, Mark Babic and Mike Smith have all been out for extended periods due to injury, you are looking at the entire defence being missing!

Against Sydney Olympic we had a squad of fifteen fit players to choose from, and of those players, eight had started the season in youth league.

I thought we were still in the

hunt against Olympic until they scored their second goal, but after that, I think Olympic took advantage of our inexperience and punished us accordingly.

That's not to say that the youngsters who came into the side were to blame for our defeat, they weren't.

The young players who have stepped up this season have performed very well under difficult circumstances, but it is difficult to be playing Youth League one week, and then be expected to perform consistently well against seasoned internationals the next few games.

The youngsters will be better players because of the experience they have gained over the past few weeks, and when it comes down to the business end of the season that

experience will stand them in good stead.

Last weekend we had the bye, and that week's respite will have given the likes of Dominic Longo, Ante Covic and Mike Smith and Brendan Renaud an extra week to regain their fitness.

Their match fitness may be a slight problem in the short term, but they will certainly add a lot of value to the side when they return.

We play Canberra Cosmos this Saturday at Marconi, and although Canberra maybe at the wrong end of the table, nobody in our camp is expecting anything other than a tremendous battle when we meet.

Canberra know that this is a game we just have to win, and they will no doubt make it very difficult for us early on in the game, hoping that we will become frustrated if denied an early goal, leaving them with the chance of a breakaway.

Everyone at Marconi is supremely confident of our ability to make the Top Six, and I can assure all the Stallion fans out there that given even a slice of luck injury wise, that its only a matter of time before we start to put the pressure on the teams above us and climb back into the play-off frame.

That's the mission we have set ourselves, and that mission starts against Canberra on Saturday.

Rudan comes of age

By Derek Royal

HE MAY have been red-carded twice this season, but Northern Spirit's Mark Rudan has support in the right places.

Coach Graham Arnold has been impressed with the former Sydney United defender and he offers nothing but praise when mentioning the 23-year-old.

"We've got one of the best defensive records in the league and a lot of it has been down to Mark Rudan," Arnold told Inside Soccer.

"Even though he's had two send-offs, both of which I feel should have only been yellow cards, his form has been of a consistent, high standard."

Rudan's injury problems in the past couple of seasons have seriously hampered the young star's progress but since moving to Northern Spirit, his body seems to be coping far better.

Now it's Rudan's mind that needs working on.

Both his dismissals this sea-



son have been in matches against Sydney Olympic, so Arnold will probably be crossing his fingers that the two clubs avoid one another should they both reach the finals.

Arnold's decision to play as a sweeper for the club has probably enhanced his appreciation of the former under 20 international, and his presence at the back has certainly done plenty for Rudan's confidence.

For Spirit fans, that's a good thing.

HALL OF FAME

SOCCER AUSTRALIA will inaugurate the Soccer Hall of Fame at Sydney's Wentworth Hotel on Sunday February 28 after its Annual General Meeting.

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Ph: 9677-0595
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Ph: 9625-2516 Sec: 9675-5419

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Club: 9627-4435
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Pres: Ph: 9671-5097
Reg: Ph: 9631-8465

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Sec: 9832-2484

MARAYONG SPORTS
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Sec: 9626-7866

MT DRUITT TOWN RANGERS
Popondetta Park ,
Bougainville Rd, Blackkett
Ph: 9622-8064

PINAR UNITED
Grantham High School, Best Rd, Seven Hills
Sec: 9671-6780 Mob: 0411-657 434

QUAKERS HILL
Quakers Hill Park,
Hambledon & Walker rd
Quakers Hill.Club: 9626-0661
Sec: 9626-9372

SEVEN HILLS
e-mail: sevo@summitstudios.net.au
Ashley Brown Reserve, Northcott Rd,
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Continued from Page 4

expand the connection between local Associations and Super League clubs.

7. Finance: The cost of running virtual back-to-back competitions in the change-over year would be financially crippling. How many clubs feel they could remain financially solvent running two competitions in a 16-month period?

Given the choice between an NSL and a Super League match, the average spectator will always choose the best quality entertainment and facilities – the Ericsson Cup match.

Disposable income is a major issue to be considered.

It really is a question of how many matches the average spectator can afford to attend on a given weekend.

Further to these problems associated with Summer Super League is the possibility that one or even two of the Super League clubs are rumoured to be involved with the new Parramatta Ericsson Cup bid.

How would this leave the other five clubs if there was a sudden defection to the Ericsson Cup?

I would think up that famous creek without a paddle!

The 1999 format seems to be a good compromise in the winter v summer Super League argument.

The advantages of this season's format as

against a full summer competition are;

1. Competition commencing when local soccer, junior and Youth League people are getting prepared for the local soccer season and are in a 'soccer' frame of mind.
2. Night games could be played in comfortable conditions until the end of May, virtually the whole season.
3. Allow promotion and publicity work through the local soccer associations and club network for most of the season as against no opportunity in the full summer proposal.
4. Workers and supporters would not be committed for a full twelve months.
5. The opportunity for 18s to play in the senior grade as they presently do.
6. Publicity and media coverage would be better as we would have a period of no-NSL for the last part of the season leading into our final series.

Gary Cremming
Kentlyn NSW

(The fact that arguments such as this are now coming forward would suggest that the issue has not been adequately sold to the clubs.

But Mr Cremming has missed the point of the

whole exercise – the Super League is in its death throes.

What I believe Peter Gray is trying to do is to save the League in a professional, or semi professional, capacity.

The only way that a semi-pro league can survive is if it has a pathway to the Ericsson Cup.

To do that a change to summer, only because that is when the EC is played, is necessary.

It has nothing to do with summer, marketing or players, it is purely a question of becoming a second tier league.

The realistic alternative is to revert to amateur status and then there would be no realistic spectator base.

An ideal set-up would be a complete flow-on of promotion and relegation from amateur district level right the way up to Ericsson Cup, through the major state leagues in all Australian states.

Unfortunately our founding fathers were not smart enough and missed the boat.

We are in the poo because we have adopted an 'Australian' model of a single entity competition (like ARL, AFL) instead of the 'Euro' soccer model as played with multi level leagues.

Now Peter Gray is

playing band-aid sticker.

However, I think that the majority of your arguments for the retention of this season's schedule are actually arguments for the switch to summer.

If the clubs don't have adequate lights in summer then surely the same applies to February to May?

While the concept of district-based clubs sounds commendable it has never worked fully in the past, why would it do so now?

The history of this constant cycle from district to single club entities over the last one hundred years in New South Wales has been the main reason for the many different changes in the set-up and the almost continual breakaway leagues (in an historical context).

Round holes and square pegs don't go together.

Let the district and amateur clubs stay as they are and let the semi pros get on with it.

Of course, that is just an opinion – but my answer to your first point regards marketing isn't.

This soccer specific publication intends to promote the NSW Super League whether it is played in summer or winter – but I can assure you that there would be another eight pages of space given if the competition was in summer.

I am also sure that this issue is not finished, by any means. – Ed).

Viduka still some way off fitness

CELTIC have admitted that the sight of Australian striker Mark Viduka in a green and white shirt may still be some weeks away as the player struggles to regain match fitness following his self-imposed lay-off.

Viduka is in his second full week of training after returning to Glasgow following his highly-publicised walk-out, just days after signing for the club in December. While former club Croatia Zagreb have enlisted FIFA's help to recoup what they claim they are still owed from the Stg3 million (\$A7.75 million) transfer fee, Celtic are waiting for a return on their initial investment.

Six weeks of inactivity during his recuperation in Melbourne and a spell holed up in London appear to have taken their toll, with Parkhead physio Brian Scott unable



to give any indication as to when head coach Jozef Venglos can contemplate including Viduka in his first-team plans.

"The big thing to remember is that it is impossible to get a player fit overnight," he said.

"Mark has been working exceptionally hard

and the tests he has been given show he is very close to what we would expect.

"But I am not prepared to put a time on it at the moment. We have got to make sure he is 100 per cent fit before any decision is taken with the coach."

Blackburn show interest in Brisbane 'under-dogs'

By John White

BRISBANE coach John Kosmina has reverted to the old "we are the under-dogs" ploy.

He declared his team "definite underdogs" as they prepared to take on Northern Spirit at Suncorp last Saturday night.

It is a classic motivational ploy and Kosmina is a master at bringing out the best in a struggling team.

But with officials from English premier League club Blackburn Rovers in the crowd at Suncorp Stadium there was more at stake than three points for the cash-strapped Queensland outfit.

"The Breakers are in financial trouble," a club insider told *Inside Soccer*.

"I don't think anyone would be shocked with that."

"Obviously we all thought that last season would be a bumper spell



John Kosmina

for us after winning the Grand Final the year before but it turned out to be a nightmare."

With former coach Frank Farina heading south to Marconi and some of the best talent leaving at the same time Brisbane looked set to plummet back to the bottom.

Instead, and under John Kosmina, they have gone through something of a mini-revival.

Now it seems they could be set to reap a bonus with the reported interest of Blackburn in

acquiring a foothold in the Ericsson Cup.

"It would be great for us if it did happen," we were told.

"To play in the Ericsson Cup requires major cash these days and unless we can get 20,000 through the turnstiles every week we will just keep on slipping further and further behind."

"We haven't been able to get some of the sponsorships that southern clubs do."

Ironically, there was a former Blackburn Rovers player on the field at Saturday's game – Spirit's Robbie Slater who has been a major part in the success of the North Sydney club in its first Ericsson Cup season.

The move by Blackburn Rovers is likely to take some time to mature and in the meantime there is little doubt that Kosmina will play the north v south rich v poor trick to perfection.

Culina target for Danish side Brondby

LAST Saturday a story by Ray Gatt in the *Australian* newspaper indicated that Jason Culina was a target for Danish club Brondby.

Reputedly Brondby have made a \$1.5 million offer for the Sydney Olympic super-kid who struggled to get a regular game in Sydney United's first team last season.

Olympic chairman Nick Politis was in America watching the Super Bowl last week and is said to have met with Brondby officials afterwards to discuss a possible deal.

Sydney Olympic officials have refused to confirm the offer.

This season Culina has been in outstanding form after a shaky start.

He has also been a regular member of the Australian Olympic team and after two disappointing outings against China showed his true form last month against South Korea.

Against Marconi at Belmore two weeks ago the little midfielder was brilliant and played a big part in the total annihilation of the Bossley Park side.

Now, the \$30,000 transfer fee that Olympic paid at the start of the season is looking ridiculous.

Yet for much of last season Culina could get no more than a bit part for Sydney United.

At one stage his father Branko, then coach of Canberra Cosmos, tried to get him out on loan just to get him first team action.

Sydney United refused and Jason Culina instead played only a handful of matches in a season he would probably rather forget.

United will stand to gain 25 per cent of any transfer fee if Culina does move.

If Culina does transfer to Brondby it will be a new Australian record for



a teenager.

Culina is one of the real talents of Australian soccer

and his career has been carefully nurtured by his father.

Shellharbour drawn in tough Cup group

By Stuart Bell and Otto Bader

SHELLHARBOUR City is looking forward to a bright year for its inaugural season in the Illawarra Premier League.

Under the coaching of former Wolves player Chris Dunleavy the southern Illawarra side has started to sign some experienced former Premier League players including Paul Keating, Wayne Eagleton, Steve Hile, Doug McMillan and youngsters Anthony Fleming and Stuart Deighton.

Shoalhaven will find it an uphill struggle in their

first season, particularly against clubs with heavy sponsorships.

Last season was a landmark year for the Premier league with four or five clubs drawing massive crowds.

Dunleavy will no doubt look to consolidate his side's status in the Premier league.

Shellharbour have been drawn in what is regarded as the toughest group in the Corrimal Leagues Cup and will play against Champions Wollongong White Eagles as well as Premier League Fernhill and Berkeley.

The Corrimal Leagues Club Cup is played in a

round robin for the early stages before advancing to a straight knockout format.

Eight groups will play at four different venues with the Premier league sides sprinkled throughout the groups.

However, many of the more fancied clubs will be at a disadvantage with their brightest young players still involved with the Wollong Wolves youth side.

In particular Port Kembla will be without Michael Clare and Kane Maccabei while Ly-saght's brilliant Vic Costabile is also still involved.

Uni take step back into top flight

WITH the withdrawal of Canberra City from the ACT Premier League the ACTSF has moved quickly to re-establish the competition in a ten team format.

Relegated side University of Canberra has been re-instated to the Premier League.

There had been local opinion in Canberra that Tuggeranong United, dumped from the top flight two seasons ago, would be nominated for the spot.

However, it has been

reported that Tuggeranong United did not seek Premier League status.

Tuggeranong has a very strong junior backing with well in excess of 1,200 registered players and is the senior club in the Tuggeranong Valley region of the ACT.

Canberra City withdrew following a downturn in the economic fortunes of its licensed club in Canberra city centre.

However, City will still field amateur teams in the ACT State League divisions.

ADDITIONS TO KICK OFF

Blacktown City's Aaron Holst



Supplement to NSW Super League information published last week;

RYDE CITY

SQUAD Les Bihari, Nils Johnsson, David Segreto, Chris Cowley, Craig Moffitt, Paul Watkins, Jeff Kelly, John Koch, Adam Peatey, Craig Sharpley, Aydin Cetinay, Jason Lal, Huseyin Vardar, Erkin Elveren, Andre Glucina, Ross Kethel, Andrew Nicol, Rob Portelli, Greg Fuchs

Additions to Player Gains:

Jason Lal (Hurstville Minotaurs), Erkin Elveren (Auburn United), Rob Portelli (Blacktown)

Additions to Player Losses:

Troy Shipley, Tim Stratford, Jim Boudaher, James Stubbs-Mills (Northern Spirit)

BLACKTOWN CITY

SQUAD Fernando Greco, Simon Prior, Damien Foxe, Aaron Holst, Paul Yates, Matthew Lowe, Mark D'Allessandro, Steve Riches, Steve Cutler, Damien Smith, Steve Berry, Damien Brown, Chris Bradley, Peter Sermanni, Jon Angelucci, Stuart Cleary, Jason Bennett

Player Gains: Jason Bennett (Eastern Suburbs), Matthew Lowe (Newcastle Breakers), Steve Riches (Kings Lynn, England), Peter Sermanni (Eastern Suburbs), Chris Bradley (US)

Additional Player Losses: Jack Sobczyk (Northern Spirit), Tony Faria (Northern Spirit), Ben Blake (Harrow Borough, England), Scott Ashton (released), Sarkis Boudaher (released), Pat Bradley (retired), Gary Van Egmond (retired)

By Derek Royal

CRUCIAL STATE MEETING

A MEETING of the NSW Super League clubs is scheduled this Wednesday night and hot on the agenda is a final vote on the Summer Soccer issue.

At present it seems that the clubs are split with seven in favour of the switch to summer in October, four against, and one, Fairfield Bulls, undetermined.

And with the threat of club-pullouts it is believed that Stanmore Hawks head a big list of prospective clubs ready to fill any gaps.

VIC PL under way

THE first round of the 1999 Victorian Premier League, which wasn't completed until last Monday night, saw a flurry of activities.

Reigning League Premiers St Albans Magic were surprisingly blitzed 4-1 by Fawkner in the shock of the opening round while Grand Finalists Altona Magic were amazingly thrashed 5-0 by Bentleigh Greens in front of a 2,000 plus crowd at Kingston Heath.

Other big crowds in Round 1 saw 1,000 on hand to watch Port Melbourne Sharks dump Westvale 6-1 and 1,300 for Preston's home game campaign starter.

On the scoreboard in that game was former NSL favourite Warren Spink, just back from a spell in the all-professional Singapore S League.

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Monaro looking to State League

ONCE rated amongst the most progressive regional league progressive clubs in Australia, Monaro have seen it all in 30 years of existence.

In 1967 they easily won the ACT second division and that propelled them on a roller-coaster ride which was to take the Queanbeyan club to ACT championships, NSW State League titles and, finally, a two-year spell in the national league.

Failure to cement a position amongst the elite cost them dearly and after struggling following relegation to the NSW State League, Monaro went burst.

Revived a couple of years ago, largely under the urging of former player John Santolin, they have again established themselves as a leading contender in the ACT and once again, it seems, thoughts at Riverside Stadium (once known as the Marco Polo ground) have returned to State League status.

"There are a lot of our

members who would like to play in the NSW State League again," says coach Ian Heywood, himself a former Canberra City NSL player.

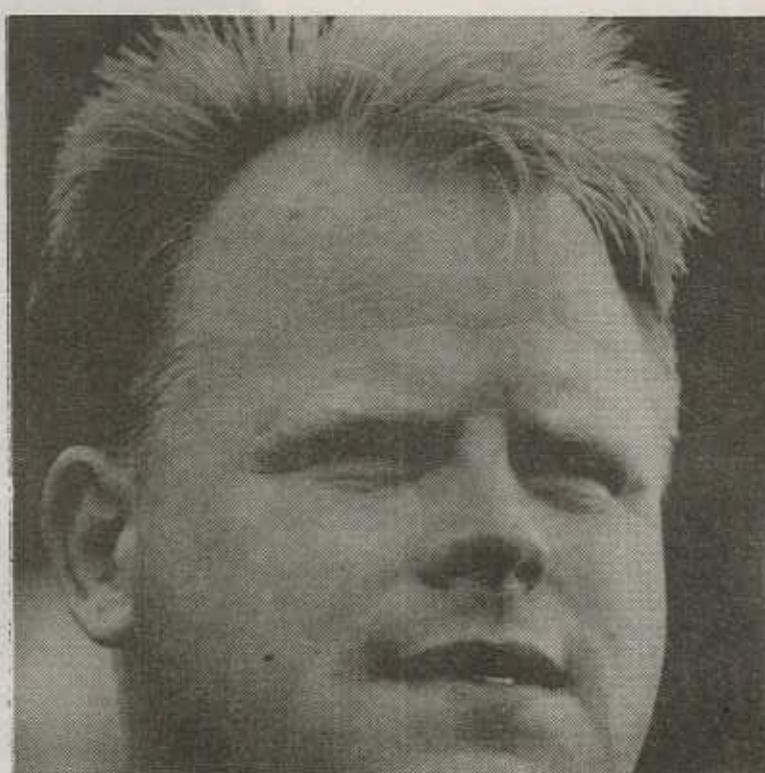
"The club is ambitious and you would have to ask serious questions about just how far you can progress in the ACT Premier League."

Heywood is also a former Monaro player and remembers well the fortnightly road trips to Sydney and how much of a strain that puts on players and clubs.

But it would seem that the memories of State League Grand Final success are not far away – and neither might be a return to the NSWFL set-up.

Another Canberra club with aspirations to play in the NSW Super League is Belconnen United. However, Belconnen have contented themselves with establishing a second licensed premises at MacKellar.

When fully complete the MacKellar complex



Monaro coach Ian Heywood: his club has ambitions in the near future

will be a showpiece in the ACT and will feature an all-seater 12,000 size stadium amongst its many facilities.

"Belconnen is the super club in the ACT," a club insider said recently.

"We have little or no opposition on the foot-

ball field and for the last few years have won just about everything on the local scene.

"However, the jump up to NSW Super League is a whole new ball game and our club isn't ready for that – just yet.

"Maybe by the end of this season things will be

different.

"There is a possibility that we might even apply for the Super League should there be a vacancy this summer."

In the meantime the two major clubs in Canberra are set to contest this season's ACT Premier League.

Northern pre-season to start

BY TONY MOFFITT

NORTHERN NSW Soccer Federation first and second division clubs commence their 1999 pre-season this weekend.

Using an innovative format of 30 minute halves, the organisers of the pre-season have produced an exciting program to preview the upcoming competition proper.

The pre-season competition has been split into four groups of six teams.

The teams have been based on regions, to reduce travelling.

Each group will be made up of three First Division teams and three Second Division teams.

Semi-finals of the Presidents Cup pre-season competition will be held on 17 February with the final taking place on 13 February.

According to Alan Nisbet, Northern NSW Soccer Federation Operations Manager, the format for the games was introduced last year with great success.

"Everyone appreciated what we were trying to achieve," Mr Nisbet told *Inside Soccer*.

"By playing 30 minute halves, we were able to achieve many things.

"Firstly, it allowed players to work their way into fitness as opposed to starting off at full 45 minute halves.

"Secondly, it allowed us to schedule three games at the one venue.

"That will make the pre-season competition fantastic value for spectators."

Mr Nisbet predicted powerhouse clubs Edgeworth, Eagles, and Hamilton Olympic as being the ones to watch. The first scheduled games are for Group A, who will clash at Weston Park, Weston this Saturday.

The first game is set down for a 6pm kick-off.

Teams involved during the night of football action include Weston Workers Bears, Cessnock Hornets, Beresfield United, Toronto Awaba Stags, Medowie and Singleton Strikers.

WANTED: Canberra-based soccer writer for regular weekly ACT soccer coverage.

Contact: the Editor

VICTORIAN BIG MATCH UPDATE: ROUND 2

Magic buckled in driving rain to new guys

VPL BIG MATCH REPORT with Bert van Beedaf

THE shock of the new took charge at Paisley Park last Saturday night when VPL newcomer Altona East beat three-times champion Altona Magic 2-1 in driving rain.

A lot of the Magic has deserted Altona with the loss of experienced defender Dean Fak to Port Melbourne, midfielder Sava Rusmir to Bulleen and striker Sash Becvinski to Ericsson Cup struggler Gippsland Falcons.

On top of the senior departures, three of the club's most talented youngsters, attacking midfielder Daniel Vasilevski, midfielder John Cvetanovski and defender Steven Mrkela have left on scholarships to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Altona's only on-field addition so far is New

Zealander Craig Ashton.

The ravaged Altona side buckled as soon as East scored the opening goal after 15 minutes.

East's Peter Groidis pounced on a loose ball that'd come off an Altona backman and sliced the ball home through the startled defence off the inside of the left post.

Heads dropped and new coach Chris Taylor, formerly at Green Gully where his predecessor Ian Dobson has taken the reins, had to give his team a roasting at half time to rev them up for a bigger second half effort.

But not before the Magic let slip the perfect opportunity to equalise a minute into first-half extra time, when East captain Giovanni De Amicis, brother of South Melbourne wingback Fausto De Amicis, brought down

Henry Valkovski inside the area.

Referee Jim Ouliaris pointed to the spot, but Zoran Petrevski failed to convert.

His soft shot was easily saved by East goal keeper John Chalamandaris, leaving Altona to rue a squandered chance.

The modestly talented Easts, whose driving force is pacy midfielder Paul Donnelly, were briefly put to the sword as their neighboring rivals upped the tempo after the break.

Only five minutes into the second half, Valkovski blasted home Altona's equaliser.

An East clearance fell straight for him and from 35 metres the midfielder unleashed an exocet that dipped just in front of Chalamandaris before it struck the net.

But the Easterners proved sharper and more aggressive, striking back on the counter in the 58th minute.

Donnelly provided the decisive pass, releasing forward George Angelos on the right.

His low shot went underneath a diving McGrath for a memorable winner.

East's new coach Peter Ollerton, who took over from Takis Svigos who now coaches Bentleigh Greens, was very pleased with the second win from as many rounds, having beating Sunshine 2-1 last week.

"We haven't done any recruiting, but if there are good players available we'd be interested," he said.

"So far there hasn't been a lot of talent around.

"We've been training hard since November, so we've had a very good pre-season.

"The only way we can stay up this year is to be a fit side. We also try different things.

"Last week against Sunshine we played with two strikers, but against Altona we changed it round, leaving a target man with pace and it paid off for us.

"The plan that we came with worked really well," Ollerton, a 1974 Soccer legend and former VPL championship coach with Preston, said.

Whatever the Altona plan was, it didn't work.

Post-match, Taylor was in deep discussion with club president Mallissa Fischer-Massa.

Much evolves around the arrival of three players from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tony Trifunov (Borac), Ace Va-

silevski (Pelister) and Zladko Ristevski (Pobeda) to fill the defensive, midfield and attacking gaps.

But according to Fischer-Massa the players are holed up in Belgrade awaiting visa approvals.

Looking back on his second loss, Taylor said. "I thought the boys played all right, but we haven't got a lot of depth to change things round too much.

"Football-wise, I thought, we did all right.

"But two mistakes at the back cost us two goals and missing a penalty doesn't help either," Taylor said.

He was unsure when his visa players would arrive.

"They were supposed to be here four weeks ago.

"When they come here, they're up for selection. At the moment this (squad) is what we've got

to play with," he said.

Taylor and Altona have a hard road in front of them.

They visit Preston on Sunday in the first Macedonian derby of the season and host Port Melbourne Sharks the following week.

Altona East, meanwhile, hosts last season's runner-up St Albans, followed by an away trip to the Melbourne Raiders.

In other results fancied side Green Gully just edged past South Dandenong, 3-2, Port Melbourne beat Springvale White Eagles 2-1, St Albans also suffered their second defeat, 3-0 to league leader Bentleigh Greens, while Melbourne Raiders, formerly called Thomastown Zebras, maintained their early form, beating Fawkner 2-1. Sunshine surprised Preston beating the confident Lions 2-1.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Round 3

Sunday 14 February

Fawkner Blues v Green Gully (6pm Smith Reserve)

Bentleigh Greens v Melbourne raiders (6pm Kingston Heath)

Altona East v St Albans saints (6pm Paisley Park)

Preston Lions v Altona magic (6pm Goodyear Stadium)

Port Melbourne Sharks v Sunshine Georgies (6pm Anderson Reserve)

Monday 15 February

Bulleen Inter Kings v Springvale (8.15pm Veneto Club)

Westvale v South dandenong (8.15pm Green Gully Reserve)

Read Bert van Beedaf's VPL Match of the Round report exclusively in

Inside Soccer

Match details believed to be correct at time of going to press from information supplied. Please check with VSF for late changes.

Nikas looking for the Berry best

By Derek Royal

Canterbury Marrickville's Jimmy Nikas comes across as being pretty easy going, but beneath the veneer lies a footballer with ambition.

A promising Sydney Olympic junior, Nikas attended the Australian Institute of Sport in 1992-93 and upon graduation, won selection in the Australian under 20s.

Nikas played alongside the likes of future European-based professionals Mark Viduka and Josip Skoko, and national league stars Clint Bolton, Richard Plesa, Mark Rudan, Paul Bilokapic, Dar-

ren McDonald and Robert Enes.

The Young Socceroos played six matches in a tournament in Venezuela, that involved clubs from the host nation, Spain, Brazil and Costa Rica.

Nikas enjoyed the experience of playing in South America and getting the opportunity to further his footballing education.

"It was good seeing different styles and for me, that trip is one of the highlights of my career," Nikas said.

Nikas returned from his South American adventure and headed to Olympic, where he finished the 1995-96 season in first

grade.

But the unstable environment at the club didn't hold any promise for the youngster's future, so he accepted an offer from Berries' coach John Xipolitis to join Canterbury-Marrickville.

Since then, the audacious striker has gained a reputation for his speed, skill and goal-scoring nous.

A reputation further enhanced when last year, he shared Super League best and fairest honours with Leichhardt Tigers' sharpshooter John Buonavoglia.

The Nikas star could burn even brighter this season, with the arrival of

former Sydney United striker Nick Bosevski at Henson Park.

"We made the semis last year and we had a pretty good side," said Nikas.

"But now with Nicky coming in I reckon we'll go close to winning it (the title) this season.

"He'll be a good acquisition for the side."

And the future? "Well, I hope we win the Grand Final and then later on I'd like to play national league or maybe go overseas and make a living as a professional."

Given his pedigree, there's no reason why the 23-year-old sharpshooter cannot fulfil such lofty ambitions.

Confident Coasties launched

By Cec Bucello

AT A lavish function recently held at the Central Coast Leagues Club the Central Coast Coasties staged their 1999 NSW Super League season launch.

New sponsors, a new strip and a newly independent club greeted the 180 guests, players and local soccer officials at what appears to have been the only Super League club launch this year.

The Coasties claim to be the League's largest crowd pulling team and plan to take this to greater heights from 1999 onwards with a new sponsorship arrangement just signed and sealed with local television station NBN.

The Mayors of Gosford and Wyong were there to lend their support together with other State politicians, such is the importance of the club and the sport on the Central Coast.

North Sydney Rugby League's new ground, still under construction, has already been offered for any soccer fixture likely to draw crowds of up to 20,000.

The club's ground committee are determined to bring international and NSL fixtures to Gosford.

The Coasties new squad, coached again by Allan Bourke, looks like being their strongest ever side with

a finals position being the ambitious club's aim.

A record number of players have attended trials and the final squad boasts two former Australian youth team members (Steve Angelov and Scott Wells), one Australian Joey (Derryk Kane) and four NSW State team representatives in a young squad raring to go.

Wells has been playing overseas for the past four years while Kane has been under consideration by Leeds United.

"Team captain Peter Preston and club captain Mark Drysdale will add a large degree of maturity and experience to balance the side," said a confident Allan Bourke.

"Gary Meier, who played for a record 127 years at Sydney Olympic, is also in the squad as reserve goalkeeper and club goalkeeping coach."

The Under 21 and Under 18 squads were also introduced to the crowd at the launch and both look stronger than in recent years with many players staking a claim for promotion to the next level.

Also on the NSW Central Coast the women's senior team have won promotion to the NSW First Division and did so in style, going through last season undefeated.

Coasties chairman Ray Sandell is proud of the progress made so far and looks forward to the future.

He did, however, express concern over the move to Summer Soccer and the loss of junior players from the game.

Balgownie building for the future

BALGOWNIE Rangers are Australia's oldest senior club even although in recent years they have played their soccer far away from the limelight of its glory years. 1999 will see the Magpies again play in the Illawarra First Division at their Judy Masters Park ground.

The club plans to build a new two storey clubhouse at the ground which already has excellent facilities. Other improvements to the ground include major resurfacing work while off the field a new coach, John Griffin, has been appointed with Derek Morton named as assistant coach. John D'Masi will coach the club's youth grade side.

Rumours that Balgownie would amalgamate with Port Kembla have been discounted by both clubs. With many former Port Kembla officials on the Balgownie board and the commonality of the Fraternity Club as their major sponsor it seemed a logical outcome.

Instead, the Magpies are looking to build the club into a powerhouse in Wollongong's northern suburbs.

Last season Balgownie finished in the Top Six of the First Division and club officials are hopeful that they can achieve promotion this time around. Balgownie are grouped with Premier League Bulli and First Division sides Illawarra United and Barbarians in the Corimal Leagues Club Cup round robin stages.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE BIG MATCH UPDATE: ROUND 1

Sorcery as Lions shred Eagles

By Derek Royal

BANKSTOWN City Lions coach Sakib Lovic knew it. So too did captain Alex Trposki.

Both sorcerer and apprentice were convinced that the Lions - who finished a disappointing seventh last season - could topple premier's Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the opening round of the NSW Super League.

But even they didn't dream the final scoreline would be 5-2.

Bankstown arrived at the Serbian Centre determined to show that the much talked about, perhaps over-hyped White Eagles were ripe for the picking.

And they succeeded through a complete team performance, one involving a high-tempo, attacking game plan that carved the White Eagles' defence to shreds.

"We come here to entertain playing positive, attacking soccer and we

did a demolition on Bonnyrigg," said coach Lovic.

"I tell them simply, it's another training, another game."

Lovic praised defenders Tony Josevski and Richard Luksic, stylish midfielder Alex Trposki and 39-year-old warhorse Mile Todoroski.

Then there was four-goal hero, Zoki Adioski, who grabbed his opportunities with clinical precision.

But while Lovic offered praise, White Eagles coach John Turner was furious with his side's inept performance, suggesting complacency had a lot to do with his side's shock defeat.

"That's the best you'll see Bankstown play," he said.

"And it's the worst you'll see Bonnyrigg play."

"I'll obviously have to make some changes."

The visitor's led 2-0 at the break after Adioski

blazed a free kick home from 30 metres and Nabil Codmani scored from a wicked deflection.

But in the first minute of the second half, speedy White Eagles striker Robert Gomez beat the Lions' defence and caressed a delightful chip over keeper Leo Premutico.

At 2-1, Bonnyrigg's confidence and intensity raised a notch, but between the 52nd and 56th minutes, the White Eagles suffered a double blow.

First, Adioski scored his second goal to increase Bankstown's lead to 3-1, then defender Milan Crnokrak received his marching orders from referee Brett Hugo following a crude challenge on Robert Issa.

Still, the White Eagles, only playing in patches, clawed their way back when captain Paul Richardson curled a brilliant free kick into the top corner of the net.

"At 3-2 we were still in it," said Turner, but that man Adioski twisted the knife beyond return when he grabbed his hat-trick in the 73rd minute.

Three minutes later, he grabbed his fourth to seal an astonishing victory.

"Bankstown played some lovely one-touch football, said Turner.

"We played poorly and to Bankstown's credit they took full advantage and did the business.

"My boys should realise that nothing comes in this world unless you work for it."

Meanwhile, Blacktown City struggled to a 2-0 victory against a tenacious Eastern Suburbs.

Late goals by Damien Smith and Jason Bennett assured the champions of the points but Easts' coach John Calleja was happy with the performance of his inexperienced side.

Despite having five players out through injury and suspension,

Macarthur Rams scored a comfortable 4-1 win against Central Coast, with Iain McDonald and Trevor Whidett grabbing two goals apiece in an impressive start to the season.

Eric Hristodoulou starred for Leichhardt Tigers in a hard-fought nil-all draw with Parramatta Eagles at Lambert Park.

Coach Arno Bertogna was pleased with his side's first-up performance, praising Hristodoulou, Fabio Macolino and John Pillemar in an industrious team display.

Newly-promoted Fairfield Bulls started their Super League life with a stylish victory against Ryde City at Wentworth Park.

Bulls coach Joe Watson was delighted with his team's effort given a limited preparation.

Bulls striker Matthew Borg impressed while Ryde City, Huseyin Vardar showed some good touches.

Canterbury's Robert Jerkovic snatched a draw from the jaws of defeat in a controversial finish against the Sharks at Henson Park.

Sharks supporters cried foul when the Berries equalised five minutes into injury time.

For Canterbury, Jimmy Nikas, Michael Raeburn and Jane Talcevski stood out, while for Sutherland,

Craig Hobbs, Aaron Harris and Jimmy Corbo played with spirit.

"It was a good game," said eastern Suburbs John Calleja after his side's 0-2 loss to Blacktown.

"We made an error at the kick-off and Blacktown had a chance to score in the first minute, which they didn't take.

"They dominated for the first 20 minutes and we hung in there. Then we started getting into it and playing well, we kept at nil-all at halftime, created a couple of chances, working our way into it,

and then in the first 20 minutes of the second half we played very well, creating plenty of half chances we were competing very much with them in midfield and all over the park.

"In about the 80th minute Damian Smith scored in off the post from a scramble from a corner.

"Then three or four minutes later when we started pushing players forward to get an equaliser, Jason Bennett got us on the break and it was 2-0. But it was a pleasing performance."

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Socceroo signs for Gunners

A MAJOR boost to Ryde City's chances of Super league success came with the signing last week of former Socceroo Scott Ollerenshaw.

Ollerenshaw had been on the target list of Ericsson Cup club Canberra Cosmos before opting to sign for Northern Spirit.

Instead he asked Spirit to rip up his contract after failing to regain match fitness.

Ollerenshaw had been out of action for eight months after picking up an ankle injury in Malaysia.

A former Socceroo, he is a proven goalscorer at any level and has twice won Malaysia's Golden Boot.

At 30 he will still have plenty of football left in him.

"This is a major coup for Ryde," a club official told *Inside Soccer*.

"Scott has signed on



Scott Ollerenshaw: the top scorer is now a Gunner

amateur forms for us and realistically we would expect that he will re-join Northern Spirit when he regains full fitness.

"In the meantime we are hoping that he can score enough goals to get us to an early top spot on the table."

Port Kembla looking at possibilities

By Bruce Campbell

AMBITIOUS Illawarra Premier League club Port Kembla have not discounted possibilities of applying for a place in the NSW Super League, despite recent statements over the last year that the issue was dead and buried.

"It could be a possibility," admitted a prominent club official recently.

"We have talked about it and it does continually come up at club committee meetings.

"It would take a lot of financing and there a number of things which we would have to put in place before we could seriously take that step but it seems to be a step which a great deal of people connected with the club want to take."

The 1999 season starts in earnest for the Primbee-based side this weekend when it takes on Belambi in the Corrimal Leagues Club Cup.

Long serving coach Adrian Alston will be back at the helm as he

tries to erase the bitter disappointment of last season's Grand Final.

In the classic situation of champion v underdog, Port were turned over by Wollongong White Eagles on the wide open spaces of Brandon Park.

An inability to contain the Eagles strikers as its defence was continually stretched wide was the Zebras undoing then.

But Alston was pragmatic after the match, knowing that his own players just didn't perform.

The good news for Port fans, and they will surely start as a red hot favourite to win their group in the Cup, is that the bulk of last season's team is back.

"Frank Barilla had trials with Newcastle Breakers but hasn't been asked to sign," we were told. "Keeper Ben Harris will also be back as will be most of the players."

"But Paul Roberts has been signed by Canberra Cosmos and it doesn't look as if we will sign Joe Campagna either."

Roberts looked certain



Master organiser: Port Kembla's Maria Cazzoli

to sign for the Wollongong Wolves after last year's USA Grand Final but in a shock move he was told that he wasn't required after training and trialing with the NSL side for two months.

Now the talented midfielder, who was rated by many as the best player in Illawarra last season, has made a permanent starting spot for himself in the Cosmos side.

And in other news Port Kembla has announced that it will hold its 21st

Miss Port Kembla Ball at the Fraternity Club on March 20.

"This will be a huge night for the club," says official Maria Cazzoli.

"We will be bringing back as many former Miss Port Kemblas as we can and it is sure to be a memorable night."

Port Kembla have established themselves on the Illawarra as the doyen of functioners and last year produced the memorable 1974 World Cup Reunion function.

Tropski follows his dream with Lions

By Derek Royal

It's a long way from Bankstown to Macedonia, especially for a 19 year-old boy chasing a dream, but for Bankstown City Lions captain Alex Trposki, Macedonia is where he learnt about professional football.

In 1997, the former NSW Academy midfielder spent three

months at first division club Pobeda and while he enjoyed the lifestyle and the acclaim that came with being a professional footballer, he declined the offer to sign a contract.

"Pobeda are one of the strongest club's in Macedonia, they've played in the UEFA Cup and the lifestyle there was very good," Trposki told *Inside Soccer*.

side Soccer.

But unfortunately, the prospect of irregular player payments forced Trposki to reconsider and to return home.

While he was in Macedonia, Trposki's entire life revolved around football and at 19, he was living a boyhood dream.

"People would stop me in the street and talk to me just because I played

football - even the girls," he said.

"They were also interested in me because I came from Australia."

The youngster lived in the city of Bitola, 90 kilometres from Pobeda and his daily training and playing commitments meant that he spent a lot of time travelling.

Now 21 and captain of the Bankstown City Lions, Trposki is still following his dream, although his career has taken a different path.

"My goal is to go as far as I can," he says.

"Personally, I've seen what it's like in Europe and as long as I can live my life and know what my limits are, then I'll be happy."

Lions' coach Sakib Lovic has the highest regard for his captain and he predicts a bright future for the talented youngster.

"Alex is a very dominating figure and intelligent player," says Lovic.

"Good enough for national league."

"He's good in the air, has pace, kicks with both feet and is an explosive player. This kid is going

all the way."

Lovic's high-tempo attacking style of football gets the thumbs-up from Trposki, who promises that the Lions will appeal to those with a desire to watch pure football.

"I'm sure you'll see plenty of goals at Bankstown this year and also plenty of lovely ball-work and team-work," says Trposki.

"Lovic is one of the best coaches I've ever

played under and we want to show everyone that we're the team to beat."

Trposki's Macedonian experience is sure to come in handy in season '99.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 2

Saturday 13 February

Macarthur Rams vs Blacktown City
Lynwood Park, 7:00pm

Sutherland Sharks vs Central Coast
Seymour Shaw Field, 7:00pm

Sunday 14 February

Bankstown City Lions vs Canterbury Marrickville
Jensen Park, 5:00pm

Parramatta Eagles vs Ryde City
Melita Stadium, 7:00pm

Eastern Suburbs vs Leichhardt Tigers
Wentworth Park, 5:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Ninevah Field, 6:00pm



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Beenleigh pull out

THE Queensland Premier League kicks off on the 20/21 February. Last year's bottom placed club Beenleigh have withdrawn from the ten team competition just last month and have been replaced by Toowoomba United.

"There's no point in throwing good money after bad," club president John O'Donohue said in an interview with independent Queensland fanzine *The Farr Post*. "We were constantly trying to keep our heads above water knowing that there is no way that we can recoup our losses. I know that there are other clubs in the competition who are also struggling to keep pace with the high wage demands of the payers and when you combine that with the lack of sponsorship you're heading for a financial nightmare."

Last season Beenleigh made the final of the Queensland Premier League's pre-season competition but struggled in the league proper. They finished bottom, losing twenty three games in the process.

And in other QPL news Taringa Rovers have just announced the launch of a new internet site, TRSC II. "This is the beginning of the new look site that will be the 'Pride of the North'," says Craig John Tillotson.

"More pages will be added prior to the commencement of the season, so keep watching. For now all the latest news, results and fixture information is at your fingertips."

The site's address is <http://www.users.bigpond.com/c.tillotson/trsc.html>



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REGISTRATION DIRECTORY

Asquith Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 9am-1pm
Coles Car park, Asquith
Contact: Ben Gadsby 9477 3383

Bannockburn Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 11am-1pm
Bannockburn Oval
Contact: Marcus Ammann 9402 8929

Barker Old Boys Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Ed Yue 9873 2164

Berowra Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6, 9am-3pm
Sunday February 7, 10am-1pm
Berowra Oval Clubhouse
Contact: Tricia Muxlow 9456 2919

Brooklyn Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Contact: Leo Houlcroft 9985 7641

Chase United Soccer Club
(U14, Adult, O35)
Contact: Stuart Dever 9482 3534

Chatswood Rangers Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6, 2pm-4pm
Mowbray Public School, Mowbray Rd
Contact: Geoff Jones 9419 3544 Juniors
John Schrooten 9411 1340 Adults

Christian Football Club
(Adult only)
Contact: John Toyer 99456 3624
Clarke Road Soccer Club
(Junior only)
Sunday February 14 & 21, 10am-5pm
Carrington Field, Carrington Rd, Wairoonga
Contact: Stephanie Binsted 9488 8352

Corpus Christi Hawks Soccer Club
(Junior only)
Contact: Terry Darlington 9449 2514

Dalleys Soccer Club

(Adult only)
Contact: Bob Tomasic 9958 1493

Gordon Soccer Club (Junior only)
Saturday February 13, 9-12, Gordon Shopping
Centre
Saturday February 20, 9-12, Darnley Oval
Contact: Sandra Chong 9498 1264

Greenwich Sports Club
(Junior-Adult)
Thursday February 18, 6.30pm-8pm
Saturday February 20, 8.30am-10am
Greenwich Uniting Church Hall
Contact: Bob Campbell 9438 5999

Holy Family Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: Justin Moses 9904 7943

Hornsby Hts Sports
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Sunday February 7, 9am-2pm
Montview Clubhouse, Kookaburra Rd, Hornsby
Hts
Contact Ian Imrie 9476 6435

Hornsby RSL Youth Club
(Junior only)
Contact: Adrian Arthur-Smith 9476 6274

Hornsby RSL
(Adult only)
Every Tuesday & Thursday in Feb, 6.30pm
Mills Park, Asquith
Contact: Roy Ashpole 9476 2054

Kissing Point Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Friday February 5, 6pm-9pm
Saturday February 5 & 13, 9am-4pm
Sunday February 14, 9am-4pm - Seniors only
Auluba Clubhouse, Auluba Rd, Turramurra
Contact: Sharyn Hill 9449 7107

Knox Old Boys
(Adult only)
Contact: John Bradfield 9488 7721

Lane Cove Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Womens/Girls)
Saturday February 6, 9am-12noon

Longueville Sporting Club
Contact: Rod Campbell 9420 4011

Lane Cove West Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Sue Heffernan 9949 3914

Lindfield Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Women/Girls)
Saturday February 6, 8:30am-1pm
West Lindfield Bowling Club, Highfields Rd
Contact: David Kok 9972 0621 Senior Mens
Eric Forsythe 9416 5697 Juniors & Women

Mosman Marist Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: Paul Hammerton 9969 5906

Mount Colah Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Women/Girls)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 10am-2pm
Mount Colah Public School, Telopia St
Contact: Chris Freer 9457 8992

Mt Kuring-gai Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Kevin Venner 9457 9412

Mt St Bernard Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: Rocco Crino 9449 7032

Northbridge Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Women/Girls)
Sunday February 7, 10am-12noon
Northbridge Oval, Sailors Bay Rd
Contact: Nikki Mackay 9958 2646

Northside Monash Soccer Club
(Juniors-Adult)
Contact: Jeff Miller 9983 9689

North Sydney Bears Soccer Club
(Juniors-Adult)
Sunday February 7, 9am-12noon
Cammeray Oval Dressing Sheds
Contact: Allan Stomann 9955 2522 Juniors
Mike Speed 0417 037 887 Mens

North Sydney Boys High
(U12-Adult)
Contact: Zaheer Reporter 9953 5681

North Sydney Artarmon Soccer Club
(Adult only & Womens)
Contact: Simon Cox 9922 1128

North Turramurra Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Contact: Chris Soupidis 9449 1154

Prouille Soccer Club
(Junior & O35)
Saturday February 6, 9am-12noon
Prouille School, Water St, Wairoonga
Contact: Chris Goldrick 9144 2652

St Ives Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult & Women/Girls)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 9am-2pm
St Ives Village Shopping Centre
Contact: Vicki McComas 9440 8292

St Michaels Soccer Club
(U7-U11)
Contact: John O'Neill 9427 4380

Uni of Technology Soccer Club
(Adult only & Womens)
Sunday February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 5pm-7pm
UTS Kuring-gai Campus, Eton Rd, Lindfield
Contact: Mat Fitzgerald 9980 8550 Mens
Pam Fransen 9719 2523 Womens

Wairoonga Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6, 9am-1pm
Sunday February 14, 9am-1pm
Golden Jubilee Oval, Wairoonga
Contact: Margie Caskey 9489 7615

West Pymble Soccer Club
(Junior-Adult)
Saturday February 6 & 13, 9am-12noon
West Pymble Shops, Kendall St
Contact: John Hill 9498 5443

Willoughby United Soccer Club
(Adult only)
Roupen Manjiikian 9958 2839

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Casagrande eclipses women's series with stunning hat trick

By Janene Mar

CANBERRA Eclipse holds a five point lead atop of the Australian Women's Soccer summer series after a win and a draw over Northern NSW Horizon in last weekend's round eight action.

But SASI Pirates are still well in contention for the upcoming Grand Final taking two wins from the weekend over Queensland Stings to move into second place ahead of NSW Sapphires who had the bye.

And, with two rounds remaining the race for the final is between this trio after Eclipse were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom-placed Northern.

Bolstered by the return of two suspended players, Alison Forman and Joanne Powell, Horizon fought well for an even

contest against the favourite - Cheryl Salisbury equalising from the penalty spot soon after the break following Amy Taylor's first half goal for Canberra.

Elsewhere, SASI finished the stronger in a tight match today to defeat Queensland Sting 2-0 - Kristy Moore and Sharon Black scoring two late goals.

Kristy Moore broke the deadlock in the 71st minute after a Jessica Halfpenny shot was stopped by the keeper.

Sharon Black then stole the ball off the defence with seven minutes remaining and slotted the ball into the open net.

In Saturday's round eight action Canberra created more firsts, Lisa Casagrande scoring an amazing fourth hat-trick for the season to help her

side to a record score-line 9-0 over Northern Horizon in Newcastle.

In Adelaide a scrappy display was suddenly brought to life in the final 20 minutes.

A brilliant long range strike from Pirate's Jessica Halfpenny firing her side to a valuable 3-0 victory over Queensland Stings.

But it was Lisa Casagrande's fourth hat-trick of the season which was the highlight of the weekend action.

It helped front-runner Canberra to a record 9-0 win over bottom side Northern NSW and handed the team a six-point lead over defending champions NSW Sapphires.



Sally Cooper opened the Eclipse account, scoring after just three minutes to set up a 3-0 lead at the break.

Casagrande nailed her trio all within an inspired 16 minute period in the second half, and Kim Channing scored a minute after coming on as a substitute.

In Adelaide an ordinary display filled with stray passes and missed chances was suddenly brought to life in the final twenty minutes.

Dempsey: "New Zealand youth is go, go, go"

Oceania soccer president Charlie Dempsey will tell FIFA officials all is back on course for the World Youth Championships scheduled for New Zealand in November.

Weeks of doubt over the future of the event ended late last week, with the appointment of former Auckland Warriors chief executive Bill MacGowan to run it after former Soccer New Zealand CEO Chris Turner withdrew a court action threat.

Turner had claimed he had a contract to organise the tournament.

Dempsey, just back from soccer business in Australia and Papua New Guinea, said he would be in touch with FIFA immediately to assure them the wrangling was over and it is all "go, go, go."

"I will be sending a fax to say everything has been settled," Dempsey said. Dempsey is expected to meet Mac-



Oceania Confederation boss Charlie Dempsey

Gowan on Thursday to discuss the tournament and offer the support of the Oceania confederation to ensuring it is a success.

Olympic held by organised Newcastle

By Phil Dando

NEITHER Newcastle Breakers coach Lee Sterrey or Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina were happy men after their teams drew 1-1 in the Ericsson Cup at Breakers Stadium on Friday night.

Sterrey was unhappy that his defence had been caught flat-footed allowing Olympic to equalise with just eight minutes of the game left, while Culina was also critical of his experienced defenders.

"It was a bad goal to concede," Culina said.

"I'm disappointed not to get three points but Newcastle's defence was difficult to break down.

"Lee's got them well organised defensively but

I don't think I'd ever play like that.

"I like my sides to express themselves a bit more."

Sterrey, not usually critical of his team said: "I thought we had the game in our control, we let them come at us as planned, we were playing smart but poor defence cost us the three points in the end."

The first real chance of the game fell to Olympic the coach's son, Jason, when he forced Breakers goalkeeper Bob Catlin to save from 15 metres.

Then the Breakers' young midfielder Greg Owens brought a flying save out of Olympic goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos who did well to hold the ball.

Big Olympic striker

Adrian Cervinski almost gave his team the lead with a shot from 20 metres which flew just wide and then Bouhoutsos had to be alert at the other end to cut out a dangerous low cross from the Breakers' lively striker John Buonavoglia.

Owens was starting to look dangerous, having a shot that looked to be on target blocked by a defender then after he'd pinched the ball from a sloppy Olympic defence, his shot lacked enough pace to trouble the Olympic goalkeeper.

Right on halftime, it was the Breakers' defence's turn to be sloppy, turning the ball over far too easily, creating a shooting chance for Pablo Cardozo, but the league's leading scorer

fired over the bar.

The Breakers took the lead on the hour.

Defender Andy Roberts sent the ball down the line to left winger Brad Wiecek whose cross glanced off a defender's head to Owens on the edge of the penalty area, who simply belted the ball past the diving Bouhoutsos.

In the 73rd minute, Catlin had to dive full length to parry away a stinging Cardozo free kick then Bouhoutsos had to do likewise to prevent substitute Adam Sanderson increasing the Breakers' lead.

Olympic pushed defender Ante Juric up into the front line and the tactic worked when he headed home at the far post in the 82nd minute to bring his side level.

Just before fulltime, Olympic substitute Norman Tome missed a glorious chance to win the game but fired wide with



Keeper Bobby Catlin: Newcastle's best player this season to date

only Catlin to beat and in injury time another Olympic substitute Chris Kalantzis had a free kick tipped over the bar by Catlin.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (Owens)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Juric)
Venue: Austral Park
Man of the Match: Bobby Catlin NEWC

TRADITION & TECHNOLOGY

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Two off as Thompson grabs Falcons fight back

CARLTON crashed to a shock 2-1 defeat at lowly Gippsland in Morwell on Saturday night and to add to coach Eddie Krncevic's woes the visitors had two players dismissed during a controversial second half.

Carlton appeared set to cement its place in the play-offs when it led 1-0 at the break but the turning point came on 63 minutes when New Zealand international Sean Douglas was shown the red card by referee Con Diomis for a professional foul on Archie Thompson.

Three minutes later

Gippsland was level, ironically through Thompson.

But Carlton was in further trouble a few minutes later when Simon Colosimo was dismissed for a foul, his second yellow card offence.

Gippsland stretched the undermanned Carlton defence and on 72 minutes scored the winner from substitute Brian MacNicol.

Striker Alex Moriera put Carlton ahead on 23 minutes when he slotted home a through ball from Marco Bresciano.

The Blues continued with their clever attack-

ing play forcing Gippsland into defensive errors resulting in a series of shots at goal by Marco Bresciano, Joe Tricarico and Moriera with Adrian Cervinski and Lubo Labanski lending good support.

Gippsland attempted to respond with Olyroo Thompson, possibly playing his final game for Gippsland before joining tonight's opponent, out to impress.

In the second half the Gippslanders came out more determined and hungry for the equaliser.

Three minutes after the Douglas dismissal, a low

Will Hastie corner was brilliantly intercepted by Thompson who headed the ball home for the equaliser.

Carlton's luck took a turn for the worse with the sending off of Colosimo for a dangerous low tackle and shortly afterwards MacNicol scored the winner from a Levant Osman set up.

Gippsland coach Stuart Munro was delighted with his team's performance.

"We started well, very positive but then conceded a goal which was our mistake in defence," he said. "Carlton took over but after half time we came out determined."

A dejected Krncevic, facing his former club, refused to talk to the media after the match.



Brian MacNicol: on the scoresheet for Gippsland

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2 (Thompson, MacNicol)
CARLTON 1 (Moreira)
Venue: Falcons Park
Man of the Match: Archie Thompson GIPS

Eight minute blitzkrieg sinks Spirit

A FOUR goal blitz in eight minutes rocked Northern Spirit's play-off aspirations, with Brisbane thrashing the Sydney glamour club 5-1 in Friday's NSL match at SunCorp Stadium.

The Strikers, who had accounted for Marconi and Sydney Olympic in their previous two clashes, added the scalp of a third big-name Sydney club after a second half onslaught inspired by Nick Meredith.

Completely outplaying the greatly disappointing Spirit, Brisbane is now in a bottleneck of contenders for top six finals berths after starting the match in eighth position on 25 points.

Spearheaded by man-of-the-match Meredith, the Strikers took 34 minutes before grabbing a well deserved 1-0 lead through Reece Tollenare, who was closely marked but somehow managed to deflect a Jeromy Harris shot past badly stranded Spirit keeper Paul Henderson.

Northern Spirit missed a



Nick Meredith: outstanding

costly chance to draw level five minutes from halftime when Robbie Slater found space at the far post heading down a corner and the Strikers took total control after the resumption.

Starting the worst period of play in Spirit's brief one-year history, Brisbane defender Chris Zoricich scored a classic three kick from the edge of the box in the 60th

minute and the flood gates opened.

Fellow defender Steve Laybutt stretched the home team's lead to three with another solo run just two minutes later and then Meredith landed an unaccustomed right foot shot from close range before Des White's third goal in five matches in the 68th minute.

The only consolation in a lethargic performance for Northern Spirit came ten minutes from time when player-coach Graham Arnold pushed forward in attack and was rewarded for his efforts beating Brisbane keeper Clint Bolton with a powerful strike.

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER



Ericsson Cup Round 20: 12-14 February

Friday 12 February

Newcastle Breakers v South Melbourne
Breakers Stadium 8.00pm

Saturday 06 February

Marconi Fairfield v Canberra Cosmos
Marconi Stadium 7.00pm

Sunday 07 February

Northern Spirit v Carlton ***
North Sydney Oval 5.00pm
Adelaide Sharks v Gippsland Falcons
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.30pm
Sydney Olympic v Sydney United
Belmore Sportsground 6.00pm
Perth Glory v Brisbane Strikers
Perth Oval 5.00pm
Melbourne Knights v Adelaide City
Knights Stadium 6.00pm

Bye: Wollongong Wolves

*** denotes ABC Match of the Round

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

BRISBANE STRIKERS 5 (Tollenare, Zoricich, Laybutt, Meredith, D Hughes)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Arnold)
Venue: SunCorp Stadium
Man of the Match: Nick Meredith BRIS

Point blank Gibson United's hero in City draw

By Ted Simmons

RESERVE goalkeeper Mike Gibson produced his former Socceroo skills to enable Sydney United to share the points in a National Soccer League 1-1 draw with Adelaide City at United Sports Centre on Sunday.

Gibson, after some uncertain patches in the opening session, kept United in the match with his stops including a point-blank shot from striker Bradley Hassell four minutes into extra time.

The 35-year-old custodian had been pushed into the match by coach David Mitchell after injury to first team keeper Andrew Crews.

"I went for experience and Mike played well

even though he wasn't in the game that much," said Mitchell.

"It was a tough game and we needed another goal when we had them under pressure."

United had opened the scoring through Mile Sterjovski in the 18th minute with Adelaide's Damien Mori levelling the match 10 minutes later. Adelaide City were quick in counter attack and Mori and Carl Veart wasted little time in testing the United defence.

Tall defenders Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic again presented an imposing obstacle but United still had the first chance when a Sterjovski shot was deflected by Tobin.

A brilliant run from halfway by Richard Plesa gave United the lead when he swapped short passes with Sterjovski which ended with the striker scoring from eight metres.

Defender David Terminello twice rescued Adelaide in the next few minutes when he cleared almost off the line an Ante Moric free kick and then headed away a

bouncing ball from a corner.

Adelaide moved forward again with Veart getting behind the defence and shooting wide with only Gibson to beat.

He made up for the miss when Gibson could only block his downward header and the always alert Mori levelled the score from close range.

Mori brought a top save from Gibson with a 25 metres drive and Steve Berry headed high from in front for United to wrap up the first.

Adelaide again went close when a falling Mori

still managed to get his boot to a Hassell cross with the shot skimming over the bar.

"We should have done better with our chances but there is still a long

way to go," said Adelaide coach Zoran Matic.

Gibson again protected his goal towards the closing stages of the match against shots from

Hassell and Mori.

"I don't know if they would let me but I would be quite happy to retire on the performance of that game," said Gibson.

United in-goal hero Mike Gibson



SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Sterjovski)
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Mori)
Venue: Edensor Park
Man of the Match: David Barrett SUTD

Streak ends: Edwards inspires

By Sam Lienert

CLASSY forward play from Perth Glory striker Alistair Edwards helped his side to its first win in six matches against the Adelaide Sharks at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Edwards set up Michael Garcia for the opening goal in the 10th minute of the match then headed the second himself in the 31st minute to put the Glory on track to an entertaining three-one victory.

Perth goalkeeper Tony Franken also deserved much of the credit for the win, making many tough saves, including three brilliant diving blocks against Sharks players within five metres of goal.

The loss left Adelaide's new coach Adrian Santrac with little hope of guiding his side to the finals.

It continued the Sharks terrible mid-season slump with only two points from its past eight matches.

Perth looked dangerous from the start of the match with Garcia, Edwards, Robert Trajkovski and Con Boutsianis providing plenty of pace and creativity up forward.

ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Poimer)
PERTH GLORY 3 (Garcia, Edwards, Boutsianis)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Alistair Edwards PRTH

Garcia's opening goal finished off a set of precision passes from deep in defence, with Edwards cross from the right side allowing Garcia to

send a left-footer home from the left post without breaking stride. Edwards' headed goal came from a looped cross into the centre of the goalface

which Sharks goalkeeper David Miller came off his line to intercept but misjudged it in the swirling breeze and Edwards casually lobbed it over his head.

Adelaide striker Derek Poimer skilfully exploited some holes in the Perth defence but had two excellent close-range chances blocked by Franken

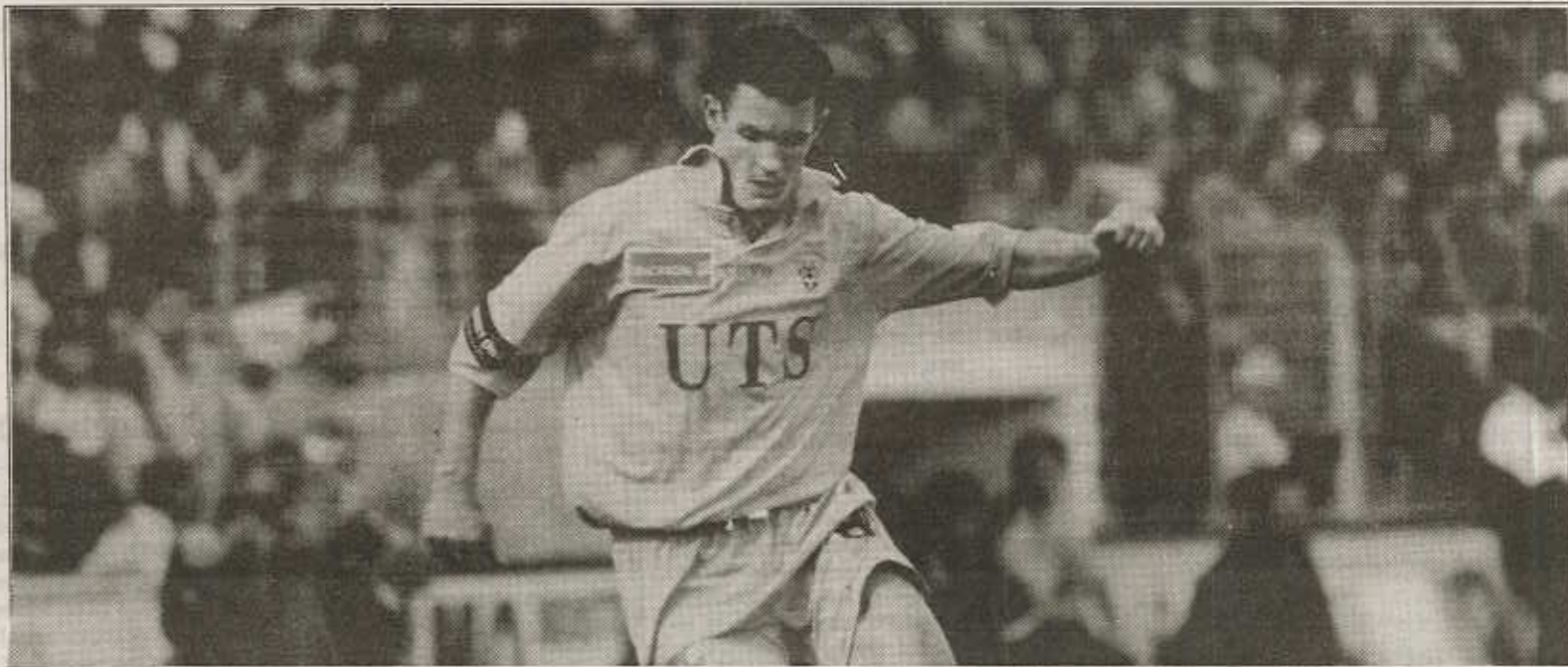
in the first half then had a penalty shot 15 minutes into the second half which he blasted over the crossbar.

Hamilton Thorp had another chance to score from five metres two minutes later when he had plenty of time to line up against Franken but the keeper pulled off a spectacular save with his shins after diving the

wrong way.

Boutsianis sealed the victory with Perth's third goal in the 70th minute, a trademark 25-metre thumping left-foot free kick.

Poimer scored a consolation goal for the Sharks in the 82nd minute, getting his boot to a hotly contested ball in the penalty area.



Alistair Edwards: outstanding return to Ericsson Cup soccer in Adelaide on Sunday

Coveny double keeps South top

By Alan Clark

SOUTH Melbourne's hot streak of form continued after overcoming home-town rivals Melbourne Knights 3-1 on the weekend to record its seventh win in eight games and stretch its lead at the top of the table to be a game clear of second-placed Sydney United.

But the victory was assured only as late as the 73rd minute when Vaughan Coveny - moved to striker at half-time after starting in midfield - netted his second in five minutes for the home team's third.

Until then, both sides had been wasteful with their opportunities - Ivan Kelic had started that course of action with a wildly inaccurate ninth minute penalty, and few others seemed to know how to stop the rot.

The early chances were to fall to the visiting Knights, Michael Reda set out on a productive run and crossed for Ice Kutlesovski to head, only to see Michael Petkovic make the save.

But the first goal was Souths.

Following a throw to Trimboli on the by-line, he then cut it back for George Goutzioulis. Goutzioulis struck from 20 metres out and Curcija managed to win a striker's deflection to send it past the Knights' Olyroo goalkeeper Joe Didulica.

When I asked him if the ball would otherwise have gone wide, Curcija told me: "Yes, it was going well wide."

"I think it might have hit the corner-flag!"

Steve Panopoulos, returning to the South formation after a number of weeks absence, will surely rue his miss on the half-hour that would make the list of top ten striking bloopers.

Facing only Didulica after Curcija's clever back-heel in the area, Panopoulos managed to put the ball wide from just six metres.

Curcija, not to be outdone, also went wide after good set-up work by Coveny and Jim Tsekinis, in which Panopoulos was also involved.

Indeed, it was not in the creating of chances South was to be found wanting - something which may have been excused given the absence of a string of first-team regulars.

Goran Lozanovski is still a few weeks away from returning, David Clarkson's ankle break will keep him out for many weeks yet, Steve Orlic and Robert Liparoti were suspended, and John Anastasiadis was left out at his request because of a family bereavement.

Within two minutes of the restart, Knights had levelled, and deservedly so.

Full-back Paul Magdic made ground only to watch as

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Coveny 2, Curcija)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (Magdic)
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Man of the Match: Vaughan Coveny SMEL**

South's defence backed off him.

Feeling that he was now in

range, Magdic loosed a low drive from 22 metres which beat Petkovic low to his left

and inside the post.

The penalty award seemed to sting South into first-half

action, and now the equaliser again reminded them of the keen nature of the contest.

Following a sustained period of South pressure but with little goalmouth action, Coveny added to the chances squandered when he managed to get onto the end of a long Con Blatsis throw to the edge of the six-yard box only to put the ball narrowly wide.

Knights could have taken the lead midway through the half after the South defence stood and appealed for a handball while Ice Kutlesovski, undaunted, ran though unopposed on Petkovic. Petkovic blocked the first, then Kutlesovski sent his follow-up over. It was fitting though that it would be Coveny who would regain the lead for South in the 68th minute with Curcija's assistance, then extend it five minutes later when following-up a Tsekinis shot blocked but not stopped by Didulica.

When Coveny has the ball and is running-in on goal the South fans know the ball could as easily hit the back of

the net as the top of the scoreboard, and although many of his earlier efforts had gone extravagantly over, with these two goals the victory was guaranteed.

Knights goalscorer Magdic finished his game earlier than most after a second cautionable offence, but his loss was too late to have had much bearing on the result.

New Knights coach Josip Biskic - one of the game's toughest competitors as a player - was especially critical of defender Ransford Banini's performance.

"If something goes wrong in the team, he is always the one who is whinging - trying to find some excuses."

"I don't like that, and I told him that."

South coach Ange Postecoglou, not surprisingly was delighted with his players and their commitment.

"Things like (today's win) aren't luck."

"Things like that happen because you've got quality players on the park."



Double goal ace Vaughan Coveny

South v Glory Date Set

The forthcoming Melbourne Grand Prix - part of the track of which goes through South Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium car-park - required there-scheduling of the Round 23 South v Glory match originally planned for Grand Prix Sunday 7 March.

Even if the car-park were available, the Grand Prix track surrounds the stadium, and the security arrangements for the race would have limited access to Bob Jane.

The fixture has now been set for Wednesday 31 March at Bob Jane with a 7:30pm kick-off.

When the fixtures were first released, South had asked for the two games between the clubs to be reversed. Glory declined as its promotion material had already been circulated, meaning another date or venue was needed.

Before the announcement there was speculation that the match would be switched to Olympic Park on the Grand Prix Sunday, but that too will be in the middle of a very busy area over the Melbourne Moomba Labor Day long weekend.

Alan Clark

**LIVE SOCCER
ON ABC
MATCH OF THE ROUND**

Northern Spirit

v

Carlton

SUNDAY 14

FEBRUARY

5.00pm

ABC

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

RAM SPORTS

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE: First Grade, Round 1

Bankstown City 5	Bonnyrigg 2
Z Adioski 4	Gomez
N Codmani	Richardson
Macarthur 4	Central Coast 1
I Whidett 2	Byrne
I McDonald 2	
Blacktown City 2	Eastern Suburbs 0
D Smith	
J Bennett	
Fairfield Bulls 3	Ryde City 1
S Larocca	Kelly
M Borg	
M Hoeselaars	
Leichhardt 0	Parramatta 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bankstown City	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Macarthur Rams	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Fairfield Bulls	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Blacktown City	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Parramatta Eagles	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Leichhardt Tigers	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sutherland Sharks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury Marrickville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ryde City	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Eastern Suburbs	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bonnyrigg	1	0	0	1	2	5	0
Central Coast	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

SUPER LEAGUE: Under 21, Round 1

Bonnyrigg 4	Bankstown City 0
Macarthur 1	Central Coast 0
Blacktown City 2	Eastern Suburbs 0
Fairfield 2	Ryde City 1
Leichhardt 3	Parramatta 3
Sutherland 1	Canterbury Marrickville 0

SUPER LEAGUE: Under 18, Round 1

Bankstown City 4	Bonnyrigg 1
Central Coast 2	Macarthur 0
Blacktown City 1	Eastern Suburbs 1
Ryde City 2	Fairfield 0

Leichhardt 1	Parramatta 0
Canterbury Marrickville 4	Sutherland 1

VICTORIAN STATE

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Round 1

Monday 1 February	
Green Gully Cav 1	Melbourne Raiders 1
Atanasovski	Iacovitti
Bulleen Inter Kings 0	South Dandenong 0

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE: Round 2

Saturday 6 February	
Altona Magic 1	Altona East 2
*Velkovski	Groidis
	Angelos
South Dandenong 2	Green Gully Cavaliers 3
Moodie	Suric
Meiensof	Genovesi 2

Sunday 7 February	
Springvale Eagles 1	Port Melbourne Sharks 2
Stycem	Pappas
	Tsaltsas

Sunshine Georgies 2	Preston Lions 1
Stojilkovski 2	Markovski
St Albans 0	Bentleigh Greens 3
	Karapatsos
	Drakos
	Nilo

Melbourne Raiders 2	Fawkner 1
Corallo 2	Sterjovski

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bentleigh Greens	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Port Melbourne	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Altona East	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Geen Gully	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Melbourne Raiders	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Fawkner Blues	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Preston Lions	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Sunshine Georgies	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bulleen Inter Kings	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
South Dandenong	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Springvale	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Westvale	1	0	0	1	1	6	0
St Albans	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
Altona Magic	2	0	0	1	1	7	0

VICTORIAN PREMIER RESERVES: Round 1

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home						away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Melbourne	18	8	1	0	21	8	4	2	3	16	13	39	
2 Sydney United	18	7	2	1	20	7	4	1	4	11	13	36	
3 Adelaide City	18	7	2	1	21	5	3	1	4	7	10	33	
4 Perth Glory	18	5	1	3	15	9	4	2	3	18	12	30	
5 Northern Spirit	18	5	2	2	11	6	4	0	5	10	17	29	
6 Carlton	18	6	2	1	23	7	2	2	5	11	17	28	
7 Sydney Olympic	18	7	1	1	22	7	1	3	5	9	17	28	
8 Brisbane Strikers	17	5	3	2	18	12	3	1	3	9	8	28	
9 Marconi Fairfield	17	4	1	2	17	11	3	2	5	12	22	24	
10 Newcastle Breakers	18	4	2	3	12	11	1	2	6	6	15	22	
11 Wollongong City	17	3	4	2	17	11	2	1	5	8	19	20	
12 Adelaide Sharks	18	4	3	2	19	13	2	1	6	8	18	19	
13 Gippsland Falcons	17	3	2	4	6	12	1	2	5	6	19	16	
14 Melbourne Knights	17	1	2	5	8	12	2	2	5	9	17	13	
15 Canberra Cosmos	17	1	0	8	7	18	0	2	6	5	16	5	

Monday 1 February

Green Gully Cav 2	Melbourne Raiders 3
Bulleen Inter Kings 6	South Dandenong 0

VICTORIAN PREMIER RESERVES: Round 2

Saturday 6 February	
Altona Magic 4	Altona East 1
South Dandenong 2	Green Gully Cavaliers 3
Sunday 7 February	
Springvale Eagles 3	Port Melbourne 3
Sunshine Georgies 1	Preston Lions 5
St Albans 2	Bentleigh Greens 0
Melbourne Raiders 0	Fawkner 2

AWSA National League

Saturday 6 February

Canberra Eclipse 9	Northern NSW 0
Cooper	

Ianotta 2

Wainwright	
Casagrande 3	
Channing	
Kilpatrick	
SASI Pirates 3	QAS Sting 0
Halfpenny	
Ruotolo	
Matto	
Sunday 7 February	
Canberra Eclipse 1	Northern NSW 1
Salisbury	
SASI Pirates 2	QAS Sting 0
Moore	
Black	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Canberra Eclipse	14	8	3	3	31	23	27
SASI Pirates	14	6	4	4	22	10	22
NSWIS Sapphires	10	4	4	2	13	7	16
QAS Sting	12	3	2	7	14	25	11
Northern NSW Horizon	10	2	1	7	10	25	7

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS

SOUTH PACIFIC TOUR:

Australia 2	Fiji Under 17s 0
Mansley 2	
Australia 3	Fiji Under 17s 2
Mansley 2	
Zelvis	

ERICSSON CUP

Friday 5 February

Newcastle Breakers 1	Sydney Olympic 1
G Owens 61	A Juric 82
Venue: Breakers Stadium	
Crowd: 4,055	
Referee: J Blaney	
Cautions: S Pryce (NB) 10'; B Catlin (NB) 82'; A Juric (SO) 88'	
NEWC: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Ricthie, M Wilson (Yoon 87), Buonavoglia, Wiecek,	

zorek, Owens (Sanderson 69), Shannon, Haythornthwaite (Umlil 69)

SOLY: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Culina, Cardozo, Emerton, Brennan (Augerinos 87), A Juric, A Cervinski (Tome 53), Baillie, Durakovic, Blagojevi (Kalandzic 60)

Saturday 6 February

Brisbane Strikers 5	Northern Spirit 1
R Tollenare 34	G Arnold 85

C Zoricich 60

S Laybutt 61

N Meredith 63

D Hughes 69

Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: 5,436

Referee: E Lennie

Cautions: no cautions

BRIS: Bolton, Gwynne (Davidson 79), Zoricich, Laybutt, Tollenare (North 81), Wehrman, Srhoj, Harris, Meredith (Knipe 76), D Hughes, Stefanutto
SPRT: Henderson, Rudan, Marusic, Slater, Arnold, Moss (Bosnar 81), Watkins (Zane 11), Bilokapic, Cunico, Langdon (Mendez 60), Enes

Sunday 7 February

Sydney United 1	Adelaide City 1
M Sterjovski 17	D Mori 28

Venue: Edensor Park

Crowd: 4,018

Referee: E Brazzale

Cautions: B Hassell (AC) 21'; R Plesa (SU) 31'; B Armour (AC) 43'; D Barrett (SU) 55'; N Day (SU) 73'; A Costanzo (AC) 82'

SUTD: Gibson, Barrett, Plesa, Vrkic, Bennett, Santalab (Day 69), Berry, Moric (Townsend 62), Burns, Sterjovski (Mitchell 73), Griffiths
ADLC: J Petkovic, Armour (Stam 88), Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira, Mori, Veart, Costanzo, Hassell, Terminello, Sabljak

Adelaide Sharks 1

D Poimer 76

Perth Glory 3

M Garcia 9

A Edwards 30

C Boutsianis 66

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Crowd: 2,545

Referee: G Connolly

Cautions: P Souris (AS) 65'; H Thorp (AS) 70'

ADSH: Miller, Kuzmanovic, P Souris, Kokkinoplitis, Castro (Duric 75), Tibaldi (Pezos 57), Milosevic, Alagich, Gibson (Artone 75), Poimer, Thorp

PRTH: Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Hay, Wilkinson, Deans, Strudwick, Garcia, Edwards, Kalogeracos, Boutsianis (Harnwell 89)

Gippsland Falcons 2

A Thompson 66

B MacNicol 74

Venue: Mobil Park

Crowd: 2,058

Referee: C Diomis

Cautions: S Douglas (CSC) 28'; L Lapsansky (C) 38'; A Thompson (GF) 40'; C Canosa (GF) 44'; S

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Northern Spirit	15	11	1	3	30	11	34
2 Marconi Fairfield	15	9	5	1	46	12	32
3 AIS	14	9	4	1	51	11	31
4 Sydney Olympic	15	9	2	4	40	17	29
5 QAS	14	9	1	4	44	18	28
6 Newcastle Breakers	14	8	4	2	27	14	28
7 Wollongong Wolves	12	8	1	3	28	11	25
8 NSWIS	12	7	3	2	27	7	24
9 Sydney United	15	6	3	6	27	22	21
10 Marconi Fairfield Colts	14	5	1	8	15	25	16
11 ACTAS	15	3	1	11	23	42	10
12 Sydney United Colts	14	3	0	11	15	43	9
13 Northern Spirit Colts	14	2	2	10	14	56	8
14 Sydney Olympic Academy	14	0	3	11	9	45	3
15 Wollongong Wolves Colts	14	0	1	13	3	65	1

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 South Melbourne	13	8	2	3	25	13	26
2 VIS	11	7	3	1	23	12	24
3 Carlton	12	7	2	3	28	14	23
4 Gippsland Falcons	14	6	2	6	23	23	20
5 Melbourne Knights	12	4	2	6	19	24	14
6 Bulleen Inter Kings	12	4	2	6	12	19	14
7 Albury Wodonga	12	0	1	11	12	37	1

Colosimo (CSC) 51'

Red Card: S Douglas (CSC) 63'; S Colosimo (CSC) 74'

GIPS: Jevdjovic, Hopkins, Osman, Bell, Thompson (Vargas 85), Hutchinson, Canosa, Hastie, Puca, Savage (Anderson 88), Becvinovski (MacNicol 73)

CARL: Anastasiadis, Anthopoulos, Stergiopoulos, Douglas, Marth, Bresciano, Atkinson, Moreira (Josifovski 88), Lapsansky, Tricarico (Markovac 88), D Cervinski (Colosimo 46)

South Melbourne 3

M Curcija 19

V Coveny 67, 72

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium

Crowd: 8,496

Referee: S Micallef

Cautions: P Magdic (MK) 27'; D Collina (MK) 73'; G Goutzioulis (SM) 75'; M Reda (MK) 86'

Red Card: P Magdic (MK) 77'

SMEL: M Petkovic, Iosifidis, de Amicis, Blatsis, Panopoulos (Cuzzupe 80), Coveny, Trimboli, Curcija, Polak, Goutzioulis (Mustafa 87), Tsekinis
MELK: Joe Didulica, Banini, Nasteviski, Deak (T Pondeljak 46), Vukadin, Susa, Magdic, Kiratoglou, Kelic (Collina 59), Reda, Kutlesovski

Monday 8 February

Canberra Cosmos v Wollongong Wolves

BYE: MARCONI FAIRFIELD



RAM SPORTS

The ONLY Australian owned brand with FIFA Approved balls

SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



RAM SPORTS

BELGIUM

Feb 6							
Beveren 0							Sint-Truiden 1
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Genk	22	14	5	3	49	25	47
2. Club Bruges	22	14	4	4	40	22	46
3. Excelsior Mouscron	22	11	7	4	50	34	40
4. Lokeren	22	11	4	7	46	35	37
5. Ghent	22	10	7	5	37	37	37
6. Sint-Truiden	22	10	6	6	31	24	36
7. Standard Liege	22	11	2	9	36	27	35
8. Anderlecht	21	10	5	6	39	32	35
9. Germinal Ekeren	22	10	4	8	36	32	34
10. Lierse	22	10	3	9	42	35	33
11. Westerlo	22	9	3	10	43	40	30
12. Eendracht Aalst	22	7	5	10	30	39	26
13. Harelbeke	22	6	8	8	29	34	26
14. Charleroi	21	4	9	8	27	32	21
15. Lommel	22	5	4	13	23	35	19
16. Beveren	22	4	4	14	23	40	16
17. Kortrijk	22	3	5	14	31	56	14
18. Ostend	22	2	7	13	20	52	13

ENGLAND

Feb 2
English F.A. Cup fourth round replay:
Tottenham Hotspur 3 Wimbledon 0
Revised fifth draw for the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup after Tuesday's fourth round replay (I denotes first division club, II second):
Saturday, February 13:
Arsenal v Sheffield United (I)
Wrexham (II) or Huddersfield (I) v Derby County
Leeds United v Tottenham Hotspur
Barnsley (I) v Bristol Rovers (II)
Sheffield Wednesday v Oxford (I) or Chelsea
Everton v Coventry City
Sunday, February 14:
Newcastle United v Blackburn Rovers
Manchester United v Fulham (II)

Feb 2							
Division three							
Brentford 1							Carlisle 1
Feb 3							
Premier league							
Manchester United 1							Derby County 0
F.A. Cup fourth round replays							
Chelsea 4							Oxford (I) 2
Huddersfield (I) 2							Wrexham (II) 1
Feb 5							
English division one							
Bristol City 0							Queens Park Rangers 0
English division two							
Colchester 2							York 1
English division three							
Swansea 2							Brighton 2
Premier league							
Aston Villa 1							Blackburn Rovers 3
Chelsea 1							Southampton 0
Leeds United 0							Newcastle United 1
Leicester City 0							Sheffield Wednesday 2
Liverpool 3							Middlesbrough 1
Nottingham Forest 1							Manchester United 8
Tottenham Hotspur 0							Coventry City 0
West Ham United 0							Arsenal 4
English division one							
Barnsley 2							Crewe 2
Bradford 2							Watford 0
Bury 0							Ipswich 3
Crystal Palace 1							Birmingham 1
Grimsby 0							Bolton 1
Norwich 0							Stockport 2
Port Vale 2							Huddersfield 0
Portsmouth 1							Tranmere 1
Sheffield United 3							West Bromwich 0
Sunderland 2							Swindon 0
Wolverhampton 1							Oxford 1
Played on Friday							
Bristol City 0							Queens Park Rangers 0
English division two							
Bournemouth 4							Stoke 0
Burnley 1							Luton 2
Gillingham 3							Chesterfield 1
Macclesfield 0							Wrexham 2
Manchester City 3							Millwall 0
Northampton 0							Blackpool 0
Oldham 2							Lincoln 0
Preston 2							Bristol Rovers 2
Reading 0							Walsall 1
Wigan v Notts County postponed							
Wycombe 1							Fulham 1

Played on Friday							
Colchester 2							York 1
English division three							
Brentford 0							Hull 2
Carlisle 1							Leyton Orient 1
Chester 0							Exeter 0
Darlington 5							Mansfield 1
Hartlepool 2							Halifax 0
Peterborough 5							Barnet 2
Plymouth 1							Cardiff 1
Rotherham 2							Southend 2
Scarborough 1							Cambridge 5
Shrewsbury 3							Rochdale 2
Torquay 1 S							cunthorpe 0
Played on Friday							
Swansea 2							Brighton 2

Premier league	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	25	14	8	3	59	27	50
2. Chelsea	24	12	10	2	35	19	46
3. Arsenal	24	12	9	3	28	11	45
4. Aston Villa	24	12	7	5	36	25	43
5. Liverpool	24	11	5	8	47	29	38
6. Leeds United	24	9	9	6	36	24	36
7. Wimbledon	23	9	8	6	29	33	35
8. Derby County	24	8	10	6	23	21	34
9. West Ham United	24	9	6	9	25	35	33
10. Middlesbrough	24	7	11	6	33	31	32
11. Tottenham Hotspur	24	7	10	7	29	31	31
12. Newcastle United	24	8	7	9	29	32	31
13. Leicester City	24	7	9	8	25	29	30
14. Sheffield Wednesday	24	8	5	11	27	23	29
15. Blackburn Rovers	24	6	7	11	25	31	25
16. Coventry City	24	6	6	12	23	32	24
17. Everton	23	5	9	9	13	25	24
18. Southampton	24	5	5	14	23	47	20
19. Charlton Athletic	23	3	8	12	26	37	17
20. Nottingham Forest	24	3	7	14	20	49	16

FRANCE

French League Cup second round matches on Tuesday (II denotes second division, III third):							
Metz 2							Louhans-Cuiseaux 0
Sochaux 2							Nancy 1
Le Havre 0							Lens 2
Played on Monday:							
Monaco 0							Paris St Germain 0
(PSG won 3-2 on penalties)							
Feb 6							
French first division							
Le Havre 1							Monaco 2
Rennes 1							Girondins Bordeaux 1
Olympique Marseille 3							Bastia 1
Olympique Lyon 2							Nancy 1
Paris St Germain 2							Sochaux 1
Nantes 2							RC Lens 0
Metz 3							Lorient 0
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympique Marseille	23	15	6	2	42	19	51
2. Girondins Bordeaux	23	15	4	4	49	20	49
3. Olympique Lyon	22	10	8	4	31	20	38
4. Nantes	23	10	8	5	32	23	38
5. Rennes	23	10	7	6	28	26	37
6. Monaco	22	10	5	7	32	22	35
7. Montpellier	22	9	4	9	39	35	31
8. AJ Auxerre	22	8	7	7	30	26	31
9. Bastia	23	9	3	11	28	29	30
10. RC Lens	23	8	5	10	29	31	29
11. Paris St Germain	23	7	7	9	22	22	28
12. Metz	23	7	7	9	22	29	28
13. Strasbourg	22	5	9	8	17	23	24
14. Nancy	23	6	6	11	21	30	24
15. Le Havre	23	5	7	11	17	29	22
16. Lorient	23	4	8	11	18	36	20
17. Toulouse	22	3	9	10	15	33	18
18. Sochaux	21	3	8	10	18	37	17

HOLLAND

Feb 5							
NEC Nijmegen 1							Graaafschap 1
Feb 6							
Fortuna Sittard 2							NAC Breda 0
Willem II Tilburg 3							Heerenveen 2
Twente Enschede 0							AZ Alkmaar 3
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Feyenoord	18	13	4	1	42	15	43
2. Vitesse Arnhem	19	11	4	4	36	23	37
3. Ajax Amsterdam	19	9	7	3	36	16	34
4. Heerenveen	19	9	6	4	30	22	33
5. Roda JC Kerkrade	18	9	4	5	30	22	31

6. PSV Eindhoven	19	8	7	4	45	34	31
7. AZ Alkmaar	20	7	10	3	31	26	31
8. Twente Enschede	20	8	6	6	29	27	30
9. NEC Nijmegen	20	7	7	6	29	28	28
10. Willem II Tilburg	20	8	4	8	34	37	28
11. Utrecht	19	7	4	8	35	35	25
12. Cambuur Leeuwarden	19	5	6	8	22	34	21
13. MVV Maastricht	19	5	5	9	23	32	20
14. Fortuna Sittard	20	5	5	10	24	35	20
15. Graaafschap Doornik	20	3	10	7	20	31	19
16. Sparta Rotterdam	19	4	3	12	22	39	15
17. NAC Breda	19	3	4	12	22	34	13
18. RKC Waalwijk	19	2	4	13	21	41	10

ISRAEL

Feb 2							
Israeli National League final							
Betar Jerusalem 1							Maccabi Tel Aviv 2
Feb 2							
Israeli National League							
Maccabi Herzliya 3							Bnei Yehuda 2
Zafirim Holon 1							Maccabi Jaffa 1
Hapoel Tel Aviv 3							Hapoel Petah Tikva 1
Maccabi Haifa 0							Hapoel Haifa 1
Ironi Rishon Lezion 1							Betar Jerusalem 1
Maccabi Petah Tikva 0							Maccabi Tel Aviv 3
Ironi Ashdod 1 Hapoel							Kfar Sava 1
Played Friday:							
Hapoel Jerusalem 3							Hapoel Beit She'an 2

NORTHERN IRELAND

Feb 6							
Glenavon 3							Coleraine 1
Glentoran 1							Ballymena 0
Linfield 4							Crusaders 2
Newry 1							Cliftonville 0
Omagh Town 1							Portadown 0
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Glentoran	27	18	5	4	52	27	59
2. Linfield	27	15	8	4	47	24	53
3. Crusaders	27	14	6	7	39	27	48
4. Newry	26	12	8	6	39	34	44
5. Glenavon	27	9	8	10	37	30	35
6. Ballymena	26	9	7	10	24	24	34
7. Cliftonville	27	6	10	11	23	32	28
8. Coleraine	27	7	6	14	25	41	27
9. Portadown	27	4	8	15	25	37	20
10. Omagh Town	25	4	4	17	16	51	16

PORTUGAL

Feb 5							
Porto 1							Maritimo 0
Benfica 5							Farense 0
Feb 6							
Braga 2							Vitoria Guimaraes 1
Campomaiorense 0							Sporting Lisbon 0

SCOTLAND

Feb 2	
F.A. Cup third round	
Queen's Park (III) 0	Dundee United 0
Third round replays	
Albion (III) 3	Brechin (III) 1
Hamilton (I) 1	St Mirren (I) 0
Stirling (II) 2	Hibernian (I) 1
Division two	
Forfar 3	Clyde 1
Division three	
Dumbarton 1	Berwick 1
Revised fourth round draw for the Scottish Football Association (F.A.) Cup after Tuesday's matches (I denotes first division club, II second, III third):	
Ayr (I) v Albion (III)	
Clydebank (I) or Ross County (III) v Queen's Park (III) or	
Dundee United	
Motherwell v Stirling (II)	
Greenock Morton (I) v Clyde (II)	
Hamilton (I) v Rangers	
Stranraer (I) v Falkirk (I)	
Livingston (II) v St Johnstone	
Celtic v Dunfermline Athletic	
Feb 3	
Result of a Scottish Football Association (F.A.) Cup third round match played on Wednesday:	
Clydebank 1	Ross County 1
Feb 6	
Premier league	
Aberdeen 2	Kilmarnock 1



MANLY-WARRINGAH

SOCCER ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

REGISTRATION DAYS

AVALON S.C.

Saturday 6 February
9am-2pm Dunbar Reserve
Saturday 13 February
9am-2pm Dunbar Reserve
Wednesday 10 February
7-9pm Careel Bay Clubhouse
CONTACT:
Registrar Vicky Cooper 9918 2358
Secretary Roland Luke 9918 3616

BEACON HILL S.C.

CONTACT:
Registrar John Callaghan 9975 6936
Secretary Tony Davies 9451 0785

BTH RAIDERS S.C.

Sunday 7 February
9am-3pm Glenrose Shopping Centre
9am-3pm Forest Way Shopping Centre
9am-2pm Terry Hills Shops
CONTACTS:
Registrar Margaret Kane 9451 5188
Secretary Michelle Beck 9451 9140

BROOKVALE S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Wesley Ryder 9905 2391
Secretary Sam Mesite 9905 2501

C.C. STRIKERS S.C.

Saturday 30 January
9am-2pm Collaroy Plateau Youth Club
Wednesday 3 February
5.30pm-7pm Collaroy Plateau Youth Club
CONTACTS
Registrar John Ward 9981 2859
Secretary Lea Cohen 9971 1369

CURL CURL S.C.

Tuesday 2 & Thursday 4 February
7pm-9pm Abbott Road Community Hall
CONTACTS
Registrar Mike Webb 9905 3504
Secretary Brian Dunphy 9939 8061

DEE WHY S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Mark Pearman 9944 0475
Secretary 9971 0635

FOREST KILLARNEY S.C.

Saturday 30 January
8.30am-2pm Forestville Shopping Centre
Saturday 6 February
8.30am-2pm Forestville Shopping Centre
Friday 12 February
6pm-9pm Forest Killarney Soccer Club
CONTACTS

Registrar Cathy Deblaere 9982 6943
Secretary Helen Jones 9981 7803

HARBORD DIGGERS S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Morris Glasson 9905 2192

MANLY ALLAMBIE S.C.

Saturday 30 January
10am-4pm Millers Reserve Canteen
Saturday 6 February
10am-4pm Millers Reserve Canteen
CONTACTS

Registrar Scott Campbell 9938 1630
Secretary Bill Browne 9905 1333

MANLY VALE S.C.

Saturday 6 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
Sunday 7 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
Saturday 13 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
Sunday 14 February
10am-3pm MW Touch Football Clubhouse,
Sloane Cr
CONTACTS

Registrar Connie Greco 9982 9652
Secretary Tom Miles 9949 1730

MOSMAN S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar John Garrett 9908 4262
Secretary David Fletcher 9948 7248

NARRABEEN YOUTH CLUB

CONTACTS
Registrar Walter Opdam 9913 3017
Secretary Jacqui Ralph 9913 9361

PITTWATER RSL S.C.

Saturday 6 February
9am-5pm Kitchener Park Sports Centre
Wednesday 10 February
6pm-9pm Kitchener Park Sports Centre
Wednesday 17 February
6pm-9pm Kitchener Park Sports Centre
CONTACTS

Registrar Lorna Gale 9999 4064
Secretary Sharon Stokes 9918 0716

SEAFORTH S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Lynne Radford 9949 6723
Secretary Wendy West 9948 7106

SEASIDERS S.C.

CONTACTS
Registrar Melissa Firth 9949 7758
Secretary David Broughton 9981 1825

ST AUGUSTINE S.C.

CONTACTS
Secretary David Anglicas 9971 5366

WAKEHURST S.C.

Sunday 7 February
10am-4pm Lionel watts Sporting Centre
CONTACTS
Registrar Ed Neill 9975 7442
Secretary Joseph Sorbara 9452 4868

Manly Warringah Soccer Association
Secretary Syd Russell 9979 6065



SOUTHERN DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION Inc.

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CHIPPING NORTON South Park CHIPPING NORTON Ross Anderson 9601 4994	COLO-COLO Ireland Bridge Reserve WARWICK FARM Hector Salgado 9754 2532	FAIRFIELD BULLS Nineveh Complex EDENSOR PARK Emmanuel Kanna 9609 7205	FAIRFIELD CITY Knight Park YENNORA Wilson Gomez 9723 4907	FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS Prospect View park FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS Wayne Stons 9724 3874	FAIRFIELD PATS Brenan Park SMITHFIELD Roasna Lentini 9612 2791	FAIRFIELD WEST Endeavour Reserve FAIRFIELD WEST Peter Daniel 9728 2321
FREEMAN SPORTS Stockdale Reserve ABBOTSBURY Roy Paragalli 9829 2316	HINCHINBROOK JUNIORS Stanwell Park ASHCROFT William Aparicio 9607 9101	SOUTHERN DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION Inc. OFFICE AT CLUB MARCONI, MARCONI PLAZA, BOSSLEY PARK PO Box 3119, Liverpool NSW 2170 Ph: 9826 8400 Fax 9823 7502 President: Larry Grant Ph 9826 9137 Mob 0419 737 324 Secretary: Ron Hughes Ph 9606 9284 Mob 0417 762 237			HORSLEY PARK UNITED Horsley Park Oval HORSLEY PARK Julie Gargaro 9823 2400	HOTSPURS SPORTS Smithfield Park SMITHFIELD David Hayes 904 1461
KEMPS CREEK UNITED Bill Anderson Reserve KEMPS CREEK Teresa Mammone 9606 0050	LANSVALE UNITED Hartley's Oval LANSVALE Nick Halls 9728 1141	LIVERPOOL CITY ROBINS Paciullo Oval LIVERPOOL Steve Ingram 9826 0943	LIVERPOOL OLYMPIC Hoxton Park Reserve HOXTON PARK George Aliferis 0418 449 829	LIVERPOOL RANGERS Ireland Park LIVERPOOL Graham Ferns 9607 3211	LIVERPOOL WARRIORS Blanfield Park ASHCROFT Sam Carter 9618 3469	MOOREBANK SPORTS Hammondville Oval HAMMONDVILLE Phil Sampson 9731 1153
MT PRITCHARD JUNIORS Joe Broad Reserve MT PRITCHARD Marilyn Price 9711 4509	PRAIRIEWOOD UNITED Calabria Sports Ground PRAIRIEWOOD Domenic Strati 0412 001 214	SMITHFIELD RSL Brenan Park SMITHFIELD Ron Sibritt 9609 3853	REFEREE'S BRANCH Classes commencing 3 February 1999 Wes White 9825 9672	SYDNEY UNITED JUNIORS Allambie Reserve EDENSOR PARK Tom Jukic 0411 622 272	WETHERILL PARK Emerson St Reserve WETHERILL PARK Mario Micallef 9624 7460	WHITE CITY Chisholm Park CABRAMATTA WEST Stan Jankovic 9725 3497